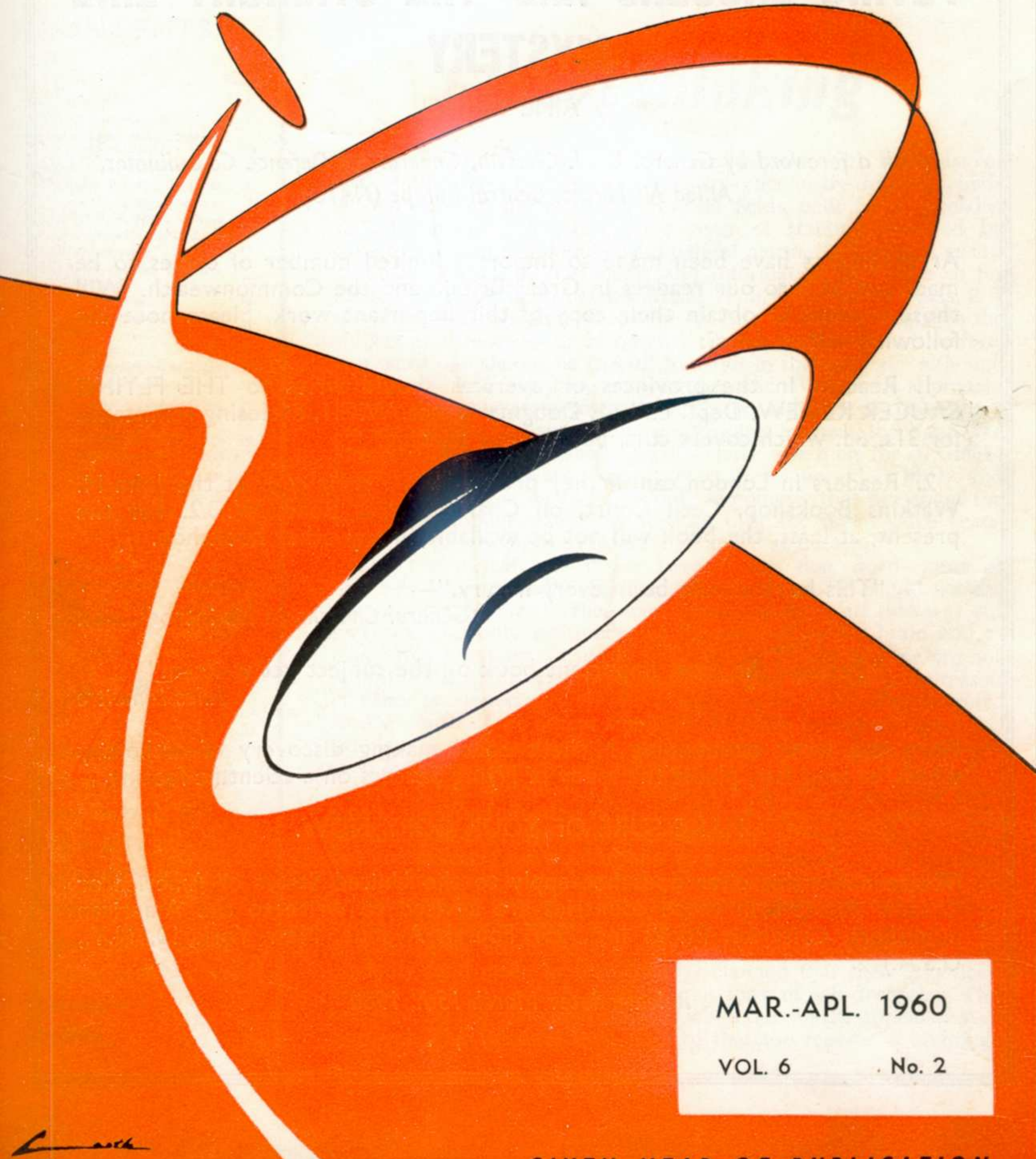
FLYING SAUCER

REVIEW



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CONTENTS

	Page
Global thinking ...	1
Two announcements ...	2
The Adamski photographs—an open challenge ...	3
Russian scientist wakes up ...	6
Obituary: Dr. H. P. Wilkins	6
The saucers' greatest enemy	7
ECM+CIA=UFO—or how to cause radar sighting ...	9
Highland mystery ...	12
Do flying saucers originate from Mars? ...	13
World round-up ...	16
The first contact of the century ...	19
Life in space ...	21
Keyhoe v. Adamski: epilogue	22
What is the official view? ...	23
Where gravity does not rule	24
Is Venus inhabited? ...	25
Gravity research: 1960 awards	28
From an astronomer's note-book ...	29
Mail Bag ...	iii

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Global thinking

RESEARCH is a word that is very popular with flying saucer enthusiasts. To claim to be a researcher in the subject sounds important, but research, in other fields, calls for a specialist skill. In chemistry it may involve years of training followed by experimentation of a detailed and patient nature. In history it means a tracking down of documents and information that have so far eluded the grasp of earlier historians. With flying saucers, alas, it is too often taken merely to mean the reading of existing books on the subject and the collating of newspaper reports. Research, therefore, is a word one should be careful to avoid in this context: although it may inflate the ego it has no great meaning. We may be approaching the stage when true research will be possible, but at the moment we are all like befogged travellers groping towards the light. We know the objects exist—too many of us have seen them for any doubt to remain. That they are inter-planetary seems more than likely, and this explanation is, in fact, the only hypothesis that has stood the test of continuous assault by sceptics over the past twelve years. What, then, is open to us in order to arrive at the truth?

The true researcher—if we have to use that word—must of necessity be continually checking his instruments. It would not do, for instance, to gaze at the moon through a telescope that was out of focus. Our only instrument at the moment is our brain and at every step we must engage in self-criticism to see that we are not adopting theories merely because they appeal to us for some reason or other unconnected with the aim of reaching an ultimate truth. And we must, if we accept the inter-planetary hypothesis, treat the problem as a global mystery: the objects in the sky have now been seen over every country in the world.

We say this as politely as possible, but the Americans have been among the worst offenders in treating the problem, quite unwittingly, no doubt, as though it were peculiar to the United States. To give but one example we would point to a contributor (in our previous issue) who seems to think that the phenomena can be accounted for as a ruse on the part of an American Government waging a psychological war. Some years ago, the English made the same sort of mistake: they attributed the sightings to mass hysteria and very unkindly (and quite as unjustifiably) claimed that their American cousins were particularly prone to this form of self-deception. The criticism, by the way, soon stopped when the objects appeared over England. The Russians then claimed that the reports of sightings

were somehow or other part of the western imperialists' blood-thirsty war aims, but ever since the objects were sighted over the Soviet Union they have dropped this particular accusation. These examples will serve to show how we can test our instrument in the search for truth—we must, on this one subject, think globally.

Never before in the history of man has he been able to take a global view of his problems. His brain has lacked the necessary fulcrum. If anybody doubts that flying saucers constitute the most important topic of the twentieth century, let him reflect upon the epochal mental revolution they have already caused.

Before the advent of the saucers, to think internationally was virtually impossible. All attempts at a world state were still-born. The so-called reforming internationalists caused almost as much havoc as the worst of the warlords: their attempts at the brotherhood of man soon degenerated into unneighbourly interference with the affairs of others and their general attitude smacked of smugness and hypocrisy. Today such people are still with us, but their capacity for evil (in the name of good, of course) is not as great, perhaps, as it was just before the Second World War. Perhaps they are more fearful in the face of the ultimate deterrent, but we are thankful to have been spared of late the clamant cry for war in the name of peace, for massacre and blockade as the means of enforcing universal brotherhood and the reign of law.

Man has at last been forced to look skywards. It may not help him to solve all his terrestrial problems, but it is safe to say that his thinking has been given a new dimension: problems that once perplexed him will never again appear the same. Even in his race to the stars he may reflect that co-operation could serve him better than rivalry and that his competition is really with those who have explored us first.

On Scepticism

Fiction there is—and history. Certain critics of no little discernment have considered that fiction is history which *might* have taken place, and history fiction which *has* taken place. We are, indeed, forced to acknowledge that the novelist's art often compels belief, just as reality sometimes defies it. Alas! there exists an order of minds so sceptical that they deny the possibility of any act as soon as it diverges from the commonplace. It is not for them that I write.

André Gide: *The Vatican Cellars.*

TO OUR READERS

APOLOGIES

The publishers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW would like to apologise very sincerely to all their readers for the delay which occurred in the printing and distribution of the January/February issue. The aftermath of last year's printing strike was largely to blame and we hope our readers will accept our apologies and the fact that the circumstances were quite beyond our control.

At last!

Aimé Michel's epoch-making work FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT LINE MYSTERY is being made available to readers of this Review in Great Britain and the Commonwealth. See advertisement on inside front cover for full details.

THE ADAMSKI PHOTOGRAPHS

—an open challenge

by WAVENEY GIRVAN

author of 'Flying Saucers and commonsense'

Although the challenge contained in this article is directed specifically to the two persons named, it is felt that the matter is of such importance to all students of UFOs that the *Flying Saucer Review* welcomes information from any source which will help to answer the questions posed. Readers are invited to submit their views—we are particularly anxious to obtain evidence of the Adamski type saucer prior to 1952.

ONE of the most astonishing features of the whole saucer story has been the persistent controversy that has raged over the Adamski claims. I have often thought, in the years that have passed since I first published *Flying Saucers Have Landed* in 1953, that everything, pro as well as con, that could be said had been said. But I have been mistaken. Just lately, the issue has flared up once more and new viewpoints have been put forward. Dr. Leon Davidson's theory, argued with great lucidity in the previous number of this Review, is one example: practically the whole September 1959 number of *Space Probe,* edited by Harold Fulton of New Zealand, is another.

Harold Fulton must have been disillusioned when he met Adamski on his recent visit to New Zealand, for the general tone adopted in *Space Probe* is unfriendly, with the possible exception of one article by Ray Palmer, but the best he can say is that Adamski must have had a mystical experience. So Mr. Palmer thinks in terms of hallucinations and Dr. Davidson seeks to prove that Adamski was the victim of a hoax. The uncommitted public, naturally, dismisses Adamski's claims as fraudulent: it has no choice, otherwise it would not be uncommitted. Even believers in Adamski have their ranks split: there are some who believe in his first book but not in his second, *Inside the Space Ships.*

And so the arguments continue. I have found myself wondering whether my viewpoint remains as it did when, as a publisher, I started the controversy and, later as a writer, expressed my own views in *Flying Saucers and Commonsense.*

In a no-man's-land

My position can be stated as being in the no-man's-land that lies between belief and scepticism. I cannot be otherwhere. I was not present at the first alleged landing of the Venusian, so even if I were to come forward and claim that I believe implicitly, my view would not add a gramme to the weight of evidence. It

was said that when I published Adamski in the first place I had acquired a vested interest in defending him, but a shrewder comment would have been that I had a vested interest in keeping the controversy alive. To that I plead guilty.

The sceptics who rushed to attack Adamski in 1953 were the same people, more or less, who had decried Gerald Heard three years earlier. They had learnt nothing in the meanwhile: they would attack where the defenders were strongest, in the manner of the Allied generals in the 1914-1918 war. For instance, several critics pointed out that the Adamski saucer in his photographs resembled a lamp-shade. And why not? I replied. Anything circular resembles something else which is also circular. This brings me to the heart of the matter, the one central issue which nearly all the later disputants have overlooked—the photographs.

Let us admit that in his second book, *Inside the Space Ships,* Adamski retreated from the not unsatisfactory position he had established in his original work. Let us go further and admit that the Adamski " proof " of his first contact can be demolished. I renew my offer to the sceptics. Let them seize on the " Venusian's " reluctance to be photographed as evidence that Adamski was frightened to use a terrestrial model for this purpose in case the impersonator should be recognised. (In passing, if Allingham's claims are also fraudulent there walks on this earth today someone who wittingly or unwittingly posed for the photograph of the Martian reproduced in *Flying Saucer From Mars.*) When we have, for the sake of the argument, stripped Adamski of nearly all his protection we are still left with those photographs. As we shall see, it is not enough just to say that they are faked.

A photographer's view

But are they faked? The man I consulted on this issue is an expert. He is an expert in the faking of photographs. He is not criminally employed, but is the very respectable head of a firm in England making model aircraft. To sell his models he illustrates his catalogues by photographing them in such a light that they resemble the full-scale article. In November, 1954, he wrote to me giving me his views on this matter. He had visited Adamski in California and had inspected his equipment. I give you the following extracts from Mr. J. N. Mansour's letter:

" The reasons that I believe Adamski's photographs are not of models is that I think he himself is incapable of making a model sufficiently good from which these photographs could be faked. . . . I think it would have been extremely dangerous for him to have attempted a fraud of this description, and the contraption attached to his telescope which was used for photographing saucers leaving the moon etc. is so amateurish that this was another reason why I concluded that he himself had not used a model, as either he or possibly his photographer friend would have had to make it in the first place."

But let us throw this evidence away. Let us admit that either it was a table-top model successfully photographed to deceive or that Adamski and his friends built a full-scale craft and photographed it in simulated flight. We are still left with some astonishing facts.

Why the dome shape?

Before the publication of the Adamski photographs in 1953, the popular conception of a spaceship was of something stream-lined, some superjet or an enormous terrestrial air-liner. If I am doubted, let any reader refer to the cartoons in any newspaper prior to 1953. Let him look at the boys' comics. He will be unable to find one single object that resembles in any way the Adamski photograph. Indeed, compared with them, the Adamski saucer looks positively Victorian. It did not possess one feature that would have commended itself to the space-fiction writers of that era. My first reaction as I gazed at the photographs of the extraordinary contraption was to wonder how the thing could possibly fly.

In other words, most of us must have thought that if this were a fake we could have thought up something much more convincing.

Now let the sceptic look at the situation as it is today. The cartoonists, the space-fiction writers, the film producers have all gone over to the circular, dome-shaped object. If you now ask a schoolboy to draw you a flying saucer you will be presented with an object almost identical with the one that Adamski puts forward in support of his original claims. It is not too much to say that in our subconscious we accept this dome-shaped object as a genuine article and, if we think further, we have to admit that if Adamski has constructed a model it is a model of a true flying saucer.

We can go further and point out that people before and after 1953 have seen the identical object. When Adamski visited London recently I attended a private luncheon party with him. All the pros and cons of the arguments were racing through my head as Adamski was talking, but if I looked across the table there was sitting a young man who, as a boy a few years earlier, had also photographed a similar dome-shaped object. He was Stephen Darbishire. Then I remembered

Mr. F. W. Potter, of Norwich, who on October 8, 1953, had, with corroborative witnesses, seen an object of the same shape in the Norfolk sky. How do the sceptics propose to deal with this hard core of the controversy? Will Donald Keyhoe and Harold Fulton answer the following question?: "If Adamski has faked his photograph, where did he obtain the original on which he has based his counterfeit?"

Some facts withheld?

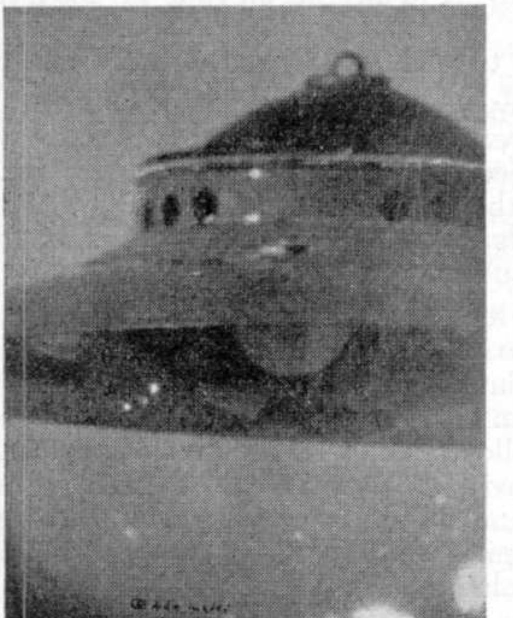
There are only two answers possible. One is that nobody knows what a true saucer looks like: the other is that the sceptic is in possession of facts that he has not so far released. The former answer is not available to Keyhoe and Fulton, for it would imply that Darbishire and Potter and many others are also liars. Indeed, to persist in that form of escape from the dilemma would be to abandon total belief in the whole subject. If the critics of Adamski, therefore, are forced back on to the second alternative, I hereby challenge them to produce the evidence they must have been withholding for more than six years. Where is their genuine article? On what grounds do they declare one saucer genuine and the other faked? The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW would welcome a reply to these questions. Satisfactorily answered, they would take us a giant's stride towards the truth.

I cannot leave the matter of Adamski and his critics without quoting one further experience. Harold Fulton seems to have suffered a shock when he first met Adamski. He complains of his crudity of speech and his manner of sidestepping questions. I did not notice any crudity of speech other than the trans-Atlantic accent, but I allow for the fact that my own English may give pain to visitors from America, so I do not like to be too critical of others. Mr. Fulton is nearer the mark with his second complaint. Adamski does have a way of evading the direct questioner.

In 1954 it was planned that Adamski should speak at a public meeting at the Albert Hall in London. As it happened, he was taken ill and the proposed meeting had to be abandoned, but a number of preparatory arrangements were made. As Adamski had had no previous experience of the Anglo-Saxons I thought it would be a good idea to warn him that they are more susceptible to the under-statement than to the frontal attack. Accordingly, I suggested to the proposed Chairman that he should put to Adamski a series of

Continued on page 6.

PHOTOGRAPHS



The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).

1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

When ordering please give numbers of photographs. Send order with remittance to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1, England.

Russian scientist wakes up; are we alone in space?

PROFESSOR ANATOLY BLAGONRAVOV, Director of Russia's space programme, was recently interviewed by the *Daily Mail*. In its issue of January 18, the professor gave his views on the steps projected towards a landing on the moon. In the course of his remarks, he posed the question that is increasingly being asked by those on the threshold of space: Does life exist on other planets? Professor Blagonravov asks a counter-question: "Why should the Earth be such a privileged planet? It is quite logical to suppose that other intelligent beings exist elsewhere in the universe," the Russian scientist remarks. He then voices a further question: Why don't these beings contact us? To this he answers that perhaps they have been contacting each other, but not yet us.

Readers of this magazine will view the professor's remarks with tolerant amusement. We would refer him to any page of any issue of this journal: there he will find evidence in plenty of attempts to contact us. And if the professor were to reply that all the sighting reports which we have printed are hoaxes or mistakes, then his reported suggestion that we should listen for radio signals on the 21-centimetre wavelength is a waste of time. If we are not to believe the evidence of our eyes, why on earth should we believe our ears?

Continued from page 5.

questions which he might be expected to have to answer if he were to appear on an English platform. The questions were quite reasonable ones, but Adamski got very impatient and failed to answer any of them satisfactorily.

At the time, his failure disillusioned me almost completely, but after some reflection I came to the conclusion that his manner did not necessarily prove that he was fraudulent. A clever hoaxer could easily have answered the questions: after all, we were thousands of miles away from the scene of the alleged happenings. A ready lie would have silenced us.

The other explanation which later occurred to me was that by temperament Adamski is impetuous and intolerant of those who dispute with him. This manner can ride a man who is fanatically aware of his own truthfulness but finds himself in the company of the unconvinced.

Obituary

Dr. H. PERCY WILKINS

back garden astronomer

IT is with great regret that we announce the death of Dr. H. Percy Wilkins, the astronomer, at his home in Bexleyheath on January 24, 1960. He was aged 62.

Dr. Wilkins was a well-known astronomer and he made nearly all his observations through a £50 telescope in his back garden. In 1953 he described a bridge, 20 miles in span, across a mountain barrier on the moon, and in 1958 claimed to have seen a disturbance which fitted in with a Russian announcement that a moon volcano had been observed erupting.

His work will be known to readers of this Review, for which he wrote occasional contributions. He was also the author of a number of books, and in *Mysteries of Space and Time* (published by Frederick Muller in 1955) he described his astonishment at seeing "two objects . . . of a yellow colour like polished metal plates reflecting the sunlight and were in slow motion northwards in contrast to the clouds which were drifting southwards." These UFOs were observed by him while flying in aircraft on June 11, 1954, from Charleston, West Virginia, to Atlanta, Georgia. He was in the United States at that time on a lecture tour.

His first reaction to this sighting was to account for the objects as being "obviously terrestrial," but on further reflection he became less certain and towards the end of his life he was a believer in flying saucers.

He was one of a small party of interested people who attended a private luncheon with George Adamski in London last summer. He asked Adamski a number of scientific questions about his alleged experiences, and was obviously impressed with the answers given. He told us at the time that, while he would hesitate to give any final opinion, he was far from dismissing Adamski's claims out of hand.

Dr. Wilkins will be missed by a variety of people. His views on astronomy were stimulating and he was fearless in expressing his views which did not always endear him to the orthodox.

The Saucers' greatest enemy: indifference

by ALEXANDER MERROW

Alexander Merrow has had several years' experience of public relations and the effect of publicity upon the average man and his wife. He has applied his knowledge of the mass mind to the problem of UFOs and arrives at a controversial answer to the question that is so often asked: Why don't more people believe in flying saucers?

APART from the objects themselves, the most astonishing feature about flying saucers is the persistence of scepticism after a decade and more of cumulative evidence and publicity. Official belittlings and denials cannot wholly account for the lack of public acceptance, and the psychologist must dig deeper satisfactorily to explain the rejection of such an obvious truth as the existence of visitors from other worlds.

Saucer enthusiasts, faced with this problem, are sometimes driven to give explanations which are either beside the point altogether or are only partial solutions of the problem: sometimes the explanations themselves merely serve to deepen incredulity. Had events taken another course or had the saucer apologists invented other reasons for the majority's disbelief it is possible that flying saucers might now be firmly established as a proven fact.

Mistaken connection?

A recent contributor to the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has warned us of the lunatic fringe which, it is held, has impeded a more general study of UFOs. It is claimed that the attempt to mix spiritualism with saucers has antagonised a large number of people which might otherwise have been persuaded to accept the saucers as a fact. This is an interesting assertion, but I do not think that it happens to be true. Certainly it is not true in the sense that was intended, i.e., that most people disbelieve in spiritualism and, therefore, if the saucers are equated with spiritualism then they, too, must be disbelieved in. I would say that most people believe in an after-life and its manifestations, even if they are not prepared to take an active interest this side of the grave. No, the mixing of saucers with spiritualism has had another effect upon the public mind, an effect which can be considered later.

Belief impeded

The student of flying saucers often points to the antiquity of his subject as evidence of its truth. He is not content with citing the incidents which appear in the Works of Charles Fort, but he will range, at the drop of a hat, back to biblical times and beyond for references to UFOs and the like. The larger part of *Flying Saucers Have Landed* by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski is devoted to historical and pre-historical sightings: Adamski's account of his meeting with the Venusian takes up a comparatively few pages at the end of the book. Some saucer pundits have claimed that Adamski and his fellow contactees (or imitators, if you prefer to have it that way) have caused more serious damage to the cause

"If they are interplanetary, could they be hostile?"

than even the cranks and the religious fanatics. I do not believe this to be true, either.

The real trouble with saucers is their antiquity. (I accept their antiquity, by the way, merely for the sake of the argument.) I would say that Desmond Leslie has, quite unwittingly, done more to impede a general belief in the subject than any other single person and that those who have mixed spiritualism with saucers, if they have impeded belief, have done so by removing the subject from the realm of the immediate to the eternal and not because they have mixed fact with what might be regarded as fancy. The religious fanatic, by bringing in the Bible incidents, has gone one worse and has removed the subject from the twentieth century.

I am not, you will notice, questioning the authenticity of the claims made for the saucers in times gone by (though I can go on record that I am extremely doubtful about most of the interpretations of historical sightings), but I am certain that those who quote them in support of their arguments can have no idea at all of the effect they are having upon an uncommitted member of the public.

The immediate realities

Could we put ourselves for the moment in the mind of a man or a woman who asks the question: What is the truth about the flying saucers? If they ask the question it is because the topic has risen in their minds above the level of the job they are doing in the office or in the home. In other words, the problem has come up in competition with the rates and the taxes, the kitchen and the children. It has been asked because it has been felt that the flying saucers might in some way affect the lives of the questioner and his family. Are they secret weapons? If they are inter-planetary, could they be hostile? The man-in-the-street does not often ask a question out of pure intellectual curiosity—to him the rate of income tax and to his wife the price of bacon are the immediate realities and only a few have the mental capacity to absorb new concepts beyond their immediate reach. It is absurd for anyone to say that Bethurum, Fry, Menger and Allingham have antagonised our man-in-the-street by absurd contact claims—that is, if they are held to be absurd—for the very good reason that the vast majority of the people, who have heard of flying saucers, have never heard of these gentlemen and, probably, will die without ever having heard of them.

Utopia-mongering harmful

But how do we answer the genuine enquiry? Well, if we say that flying saucers have been seen regularly ever since the Flood, or before, then the man-in-the-street and his wife will go away about their business satisfied that flying saucers can have nothing to do with them: they've always been with us and haven't made any difference to our lives, so why worry? The chance of winning a big prize in a football pool is much more likely than a meeting with a do-gooding Venusian in a ski-suit.

More harm, too, is done by those who preach new-dawnism in connection with the flying saucers. The trouble with Utopia-mongering is that unless something happens fairly quickly the cash customers get tired and turn to other prophets, and I don't blame them.

How, then, are we to persuade the general public? I would say that the only way is to concentrate upon the happenings of the last decade, to point out the development of the story since Kenneth Arnold gave the saucers a generic name in 1947. If one is asked why the saucers haven't done more to impress themselves upon our consciousness, then I should ask a question in return. How can they have done more in the face of our general incredulity? And don't forget, the saucer pilots themselves may be merely the outriders of other civilisations which flatly refuse to believe the travellers' tales of life on other planets.

Fear of the unknown

Patience is the virtue above all others that is needed when dealing with the subject. There are still some years ahead before the saucers can be accepted as part of our lives. Those who have had sufficient imagination to see the truth about the saucers must surely be able to summon up enough understanding to glimpse what is in another man's mind.

A final point: if fear of the unknown is held to be one of the factors holding back the truth, might it not also be the factor which holds back the saucer pilots when they make their fleeting visits to the earth?

ECM + CIA = UFO

or, how to cause radar sightings

by DR. LEON DAVIDSON

In our January/February issue we printed an article by Dr. Davidson explaining that Adamski had told the truth as he saw things but that he was, nevertheless, the victim of a deception practised by the United States Government as a move in the cold war. Dr. Davidson now proceeds to explain how the radar signals, which have been cited in support of the existence of saucers, have been simulated by the same Agency. We reproduce this article in accordance with our policy of stating all points of view as a method of arriving at the truth. Readers are also referred to the correspondence columns in this issue. Editor.

THE title of this article gives a basic equation which seems to have worked successfully in creating "authentic" radar sightings of flying saucers. Three well-publicised radar cases, representing examples of this technique, are the Washington Airport case, the "invisible saucers" over England, and the Gulf of Mexico case. These will be discussed below, with references to books in which full descriptions of the sightings are given. The terms in the equation are defined as follows:

ECM = Electronic Countermeasures
CIA = Central Intelligence Agency
UFO = Unidentified Flying Objects.

The first two terms will be discussed and explained below.

Electronic Countermeasures

By 1945, *mechanical* countermeasures against radar had become publicly known. Aluminium foil strips, dropped from planes, reflect radar waves and clutter up the enemy's radar screens. Further developments led to *electronic* countermeasures (ECM). A "black box" in bombing planes would pick up the enemy's radar impulses, amplify and modify them, and send them back, drowning out the normal radar return from the bomber. The modification could be a change in timing or phase, and could cause the "blip" on the radar screen to have an incorrect range, speed, or heading.

By about 1950 ECM was standard equipment on advanced American bombers, and was being developed for missiles. Advertisements started to appear about 1956, showing that this equipment could be used for creating simulated targets for training radar operators. I quote from an article in *Aviation Research and Development,* March, 1957, p. 22: "A new radar moving target simulator system, which generates a display of up to six individual moving targets on any standard radar indicator, has been developed . . . to train radar operators . . . and for in-flight training of airborne early-warning personnel. . . . Target positions, paths, and velocities can . . . simulate . . . realistic flight paths. . . . Speeds up to 10,000 knots [about 11,500 m.p.h.] are easily generated. . . . The target can be made to turn left or right. . . . For each target there is . . . adjustment to provide a realistic scope presentation."

The reader should keep this quotation in mind when reading about radar sightings of high-speed UFOs.

The Central Intelligence Agency

The CIA is the chief foreign intelligence arm of the United States, and the successor of the O.S.S., the World War II American "cloak and

dagger " agency. The mission of the CIA includes waging psychological warfare. Neither the public, the Congress, nor many people in the American Government, know how the CIA spends its funds, which probably total over $100,000,000 per year. Its working personnel never identify themselves publicly; it doesn't publicise its office locations, its activities, or its contact men. The CIA's policies are guided by the "Operations Co-ordination Board," which consists of the White House Special Assistant for National Security (formerly Robert Cutler), the Under-Secretary of State, and the Deputy Secretary of Defence (now Donald A. Quarles).

The Director of the CIA in its early days was Admiral Hillenkoetter (now retired, and high in N.I.C.A.P. circles). Since about 1950, the CIA Director has been Allen W. Dulles, a Wall Street lawyer (48 Wall St., to be exact), who is a younger brother of John F. Dulles, the late Secretary of State.

The role of the CIA in the flying saucer field is becoming increasingly well known, as the following references show: Stringfield, *Inside Saucer Post* 3-0 *Blue*, p. 42; *Saucer News*, Feb., 1958, pp. 7-14; Palmer, *Flying Saucers*, Feb., 1959, editorial; *Fate*, Feb., 1959, p. 57; N.I.C.A.P., *UFO Investigator*, No. 4, June, 1958, p. 4.

Meaning of the equation

I contend that the CIA, since 1951, has caused or sponsored saucer sightings for its own purposes. By shrewd psychological manipulation, a series of "normal" events has been served up so as to appear as quite convincing evidence of extra-terrestrial UFOs. Some of this "normal" activity includes military use of ECM on a classified basis, unknown to the radar observers who were involved, leading to the radar reports discussed in this article.

By examining the references given, the reader will see that these three cases are treated as good sightings by competent, reliable observers. The general attitude of saucer researchers toward these cases is somewhat as follows:

> These cases show that saucers are real solid objects, giving genuine radar returns (Michel, pp. 83-89), travelling at speeds up to 9,000 m.p.h. (FSFOS, pp. 161-165). These objects can manœuvre remarkably well (FSC, p. 217) and perform beyond the capability of present earthmade devices (FSFOS, p. 166). These radar blips are *not* due to temperature inversions (FSFOS, pp. 101-103, and Michel, p. 87). In some cases there are simultaneous radar and visual sightings, so the objects cannot merely be radar tricks (FSFOS, p. 64).

I will now endeavour to show that the attitude expressed above is unfounded, if the existence of ECM equipment can be postulated.

The "invisible saucers"

The "classic" radar sighting, in its purest form, is the case of the "invisible saucers" given in Chapter 15 of Keyhoe's *Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (FSC, pp. 217-221). A brief abstract follows: "In late September [1952] as UFO sightings were increasing all over Europe . . . a strange U-formation had appeared on a civilian radarscope [in England]. The formation . . . of 40 or 50 UFOs . . . changed with a precise movement from a U-formation to two parallel lines . . . and [then] reformed in a perfect Z. . . . Cloudy skies had hidden them . . . but the third appearance came on a bright clear day . . . at noon. . . . But this time . . . the UFO formation was invisible to the human eye [just as on the previous two days]. . . . Four more times the mystery formation returned at noon. . . . For over a month this story was kept from the public. . . . The War Office spokesman said he had been given top-level orders to 'maintain the utmost secrecy'. . ."

Keyhoe's Washington contact, "Paul Redell," says of this case (see p. 219, FSC): "Yes, I know about it, and I'm pretty sure it's happened here [in America], too. . . . I believe that the answer is tied in with some highly classified research I've heard about. . . . There's one lead I can give you. . . . The Nansei-shoto thing is exactly the same as what happened over England. Some day when the lid is lifted, I'll explain it."

(The Nansei-shoto affair is discussed on pages 221-224 (FSC) and is also mentioned in the following section of this article. It has nothing to do with "flying saucers.")

Note that there is no claim of visual confirmation in this English case, as reported by Keyhoe. A test or demonstration, by military authorities, of ECM in England could have accounted for this case, and for Redell's remarks.

Official explanations

An important and well-known case is the Washington National Airport radar sightings of July 19 and July 26, 1952. I have no space to quote the case here, but it is well written up in Ruppelt (pp. 209-228), Michel (pp. 84-89), and Keyhoe (FSFOS, pp. 62-70).

At the press conference at the Pentagon, July 29, 1952, General Samford, Director of Air Force Intelligence, answered questions about these radar sightings. The *New York Times* front-page story of July 30, 1952, in quoting from Samford's

statements, contains the following "official" viewpoints:

"We are learning more and more about radar. . . . Radar is capable of playing tricks for which it was not designed. . . . These instances were good observations of something, but not good observations of what radar was designed to observe." [Naturally, the General did not mention ECM because this was a classified subject at the time, but it seems obvious that that is what he is guardedly referring to.]

The General also said that an experienced radar operator, assigned to define saucers on the radar screen, was subject to curiosity stimuli that would result in over-emphasis. He said that he was satisfied that none of the saucer "sightings" represented the flight of any material object. The *New York Times* news summary for that day also stated: "The pickup of the aerial objects on radar screens was of 'radar ghosts' and not actual things."

Along this line, a *Washington Post* article by John G. Norris, July 29, 1952, stated: "A high Navy officer suggested that they were a revisitation of the 'ghosts of Nansei Shoto.' He referred to the rash of spots which appeared on radar screens . . . in 1945 . . . never fully explained . . . believed generally to have been caused by . . . 'electronic noise' from the many radar sets in the area." [It may be surmised that the Nansei-shoto affair was an accident, due to the proximity of many Naval radar sets, which led to the realisation of the possibility of ECM.]

Gulf of Mexico sighting

Space permits only a brief discussion of the Gulf of Mexico case of December 6, 1952, one of the mainstays of Keyhoe's theories (FSFOS, pp. 161-166). The case involved a radar training plane which was returning from a night's practice, when suddenly radar blips were seen, apparently going at 5,000 to 9,000 m.p.h. Although this case is supposed to contain visual confirmation, I quote from p. 165: "The closest the objects came was approximately 20 miles. . . . Flashes of light were noted. . . . I saw a blue-white streak travel front to rear. . . ." Since almost anything seen from a plane will seem to travel front to rear, even wisps of cloud or particles from the exhaust, this is not conclusive visual confirmation of a flying saucer.

Unknown to the airmen on the plane, this incident could have been due to ECM operations, either for purposes of training the crew, or for demonstrating ECM's capabilities to those high officials who would later get to see the "eyewitness" reports made out by the crew. In any case, it also provided a good radar sighting for saucer files. On p. 159, Keyhoe states that this case was especially given to him as one which supported his inter-planetary mother-ship theory.

I conclude with Keyhoe's words from p. 165. "Of all the official reports I'd seen, this was the most astonishing. That it had been released to me seemed to mean only one thing. Clearly, Intelligence* wanted the public to see this conclusive proof that the saucers were inter-planetary machines."

* [the CIA??]

What really happened

I do not claim that *all* radar sightings of flying saucers are caused by use of ECM equipment. However, I believe that the radar sightings discussed in this article had no connection with real objects capable of speeds of thousands of miles per hour. Instead, I maintain, these particular reports were due either to accidental or purposeful generation of signals in the radar sets, from special ECM equipment in the vicinity. The ECM operations would have been conducted under normal secrecy rules befitting their novel military character. The ECM personnel may not even have realised that their operations would give rise to these UFO reports. The reports of the radar personnel show that they were not aware of any ECM possibilities, and were genuinely "taken in" by the display.

Such proceedings would seem normal, honest, and perfectly proper in the name of military research and development. But I think we must draw the line at the next step, *misleading publicity*. I believe that the CIA "promoted" publicity on these sightings, at least in the American cases, for the purpose of fostering stories about the "interplanetary" nature of flying saucers. Shrewd manipulation of normal military moves, through top-level contacts, enabled the CIA, without any extensive staff of operatives, to perform certain necessary feats. A few examples are given below.

(1) The jet interceptors which guard Washington were moved from Andrews Air Force Base (4 miles away) to New Castle, Delaware (90 miles away), to "permit runway repairs" during the month of the sightings in Washington. This accounted for the delays and lack of sufficient interceptors. With the jets based at Andrews AFB, an ECM hoax could not have been carried off.

(2) Ruppelt was prevented from travelling around Washington to collect facts from eyewitnesses. He states how he was unable to get taxi fare or a staff car on July 21 (Ruppelt, pp. 216-

HIGHLAND MYSTERY

by Colin Wilson

HERE'S a Highland mystery that readers may help to solve—especially stalkers and shepherds, and those who tramp the hills and moors.

A few months ago, up Fort William way, a young forestry worker named Moreland came upon patches of an unusual jelly-like substance lying here and there on the hill slopes.

He told me it was about four inches thick, and lay on rock as well as on the ground. In colour it was greyish-white with a rather beautiful blue tinge.

When spurned with the foot, pieces would break away, and they looked quite like table jelly. The substance dissolved quickly in the sunlight.

I asked Moreland for further details. He said he found this substance low down on the slopes, sometimes at the side of the road or track. Its appearance was preceded by a very clear night. The ground was damp, but the prevailing weather was dry and sunny.

He had asked several of his fellow-workers about the substance. One elderly man said he had seen it. " It comes down i' the night frae the sky." The local story was that it was part of a shooting star!

I had a word with Mr. Barwick (assistant curator at Dundee Museum) about it. And, incidentally, readers should note that the museum staff are ever ready to help in the identification of unusual finds—animal, vegetable or mineral.

Mr. Barwick wondered, as I did, if this greyish-white substance might be some form of fungus or manna. The fungi are an enormous group, and include not only mushrooms and toadstools, but also mildews, moulds, rusts and so on.

There is a " snow fungus," for instance, though it is not, so far as I know, associated with this country. At any rate, in the absence of more tangible evidence from the foothills of Ben Nevis—evidence probably difficult to secure with a substance so fleeting—we could not give a definite answer.

So the mystery remains, and though there seems no real reason for connecting it with shooting stars or outer space—well, these days you never know!

With acknowledgement to the Dundee Courier and Advertiser.

217). And on July 29, he says (p. 221): " Major Fournet and I spent the entire morning 'just leaving' for somewhere to investigate 'something.' Every time we would start to leave, something more pressing would come up." A reason for the CIA to have kept him immobile appears on p. 224: " . . . Had someone gone out and made a more thorough investigation . . . [it] would have taken some of the [interest] out of the two [radar] reports. It took me a year to put . . . together . . ., but it could have been collected in a day of concentrated effort." He then quotes some data which cast doubt on the validity of the visual confirmations of the Washington radar sightings.

Hint to researchers

It should be noted that the Washington sightings were *predicted in advance* to Ruppelt, privately, by a CIA scientist a few days before they took place. (Ruppelt, pp. 209-210.) This is quite consistent with the contention that the CIA " sponsored " the sightings.

Those who find it hard to believe that a government agency would participate in such trickery should read the article in *Life*, January 5, 1959, pp. 20-21, " How Insiders Kept Their Great Secret." Note particularly the sentence in the fourth paragraph: " A group of Army Signal Corps trailers . . . was brought under false orders at night . . . with the connivance of a co-operative but mystified provost marshal and parked in a remote spot [on the base]." When the full story of these 1952 radar sightings is finally told, there will be, I am sure, many such instances revealed, involving ECM equipment.

Researchers who want to learn the truth about flying saucers should learn all that they can about ECM. Then let them consider whether they will admit that this may be a solution of these radar sightings.

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Do flying saucers originate from Mars?

by AIMÉ MICHEL

The author is one of the most distinguished names in the whole field of flying saucers. After advanced studies in philosophy and mathematics he graduated as a radio engineer in 1944. Apart from his spare-time projects he works for Radiodiffusion Française. He has written a work on acoustical engineering and two on flying saucers. The Truth About Flying Saucers *was published in* 1957 *and more recently he wrote* Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery, *which has already been hailed as the most important work on the subject as it is the first demonstration by a scientist of proof of the UFO's existence and purpose. Readers will be interested to see from our announcement on the inside cover that M. Michel's second book is available in Britain.*

THE opposition of Mars in November, 1958, stands out in the history of astronomy as one of the most important discoveries of the human mind. Indeed, it was during this opposition that for the first time an official scientist was able to record during an experiment the existence of life on another planet.

First mystery : the Green Regions

When winter draws to a close in the southern hemisphere of Mars, the planet appears in the eye-piece of a powerful telescope as a small orange-coloured ball incorporating two white polar ice-caps. At this time, the higher of these ice-caps (that of the South Pole because in a telescope images appear upside down) is the larger. It covers an area of some 20 million square kilometres (roughly 9 million square miles), while the other is only about 100 kilometres (approximately 47 miles) in diameter.

As time goes on, the white ice-cap shrinks, at first slowly, then gradually faster. Towards the middle of spring cracks appear splitting the ice-cap into sections. As the ice-cap disintegrates, it presents regions of different brightness, after which it rapidly breaks up.

But while the polar ice-cap is shrinking a different phenomenon occurs spreading from the pole to the equator and beyond: the extension and darkening of the Green Patches. What are these patches? At first sight, they appear to be vast areas projecting against the orange background of Mars's fixed configurations similar to our continents or seas.

At the end of the winter, these patches are pale, greyish, and all but colourless. When the polar ice-cap begins to shrink, a mass of darkness seems to move off the periphery of the white patch. In the following weeks this mass or wave can be seen gradually submerging all the Green Regions and proceeding step by step from the pole to the equator at a more or less steady speed. According to Gerard de Vaucouleurs the speed is about 45 kilometres (i.e. roughly 22 miles) a day, or 0.50 metre (i.e. half a yard) per second.

The water on Mars

Towards the end of summer, this wave will have travelled 6,000 kilometres (i.e. some 2,800 miles) in 130 days. At that time (observation permitting) the dark patches provide a striking contrast to the general reddish colour of Mars. Furthermore, these patches always keep *more or less the same shape*. They can be seen on maps of Mars such as those drawn at the Pic du Midi Observatory, in the Pyrenees, by the late Antoniadi, and, more recently, by Dr. J. Focas.

It has long been known that the polar ice-caps

of Mars are made up of frozen water, presumably rime. It is also known that the pressure of the atmosphere at ground level being what it is, there can be no water in a liquid state on Mars. When the ice-cap "melts" on the return of spring, it does not actually melt away: it sublimates by passing directly from a solid into a gaseous state.

Gerard de Vaucouleurs has calculated the theoretical speed of the diffusion of steam from water in the Martian atmosphere. He found it to be more or less 45 kilometres (i.e. 22 miles) a day. It does, therefore, seem evident that *the wave of darkness is related to the diffusion in the spring of steam from water,* all the way from the Martian pole to the equator.

All this gives one much to think about. Indeed, what exactly are these dark regions which, thanks to the effect of water, come to life anew in the spring? Do they not suggest some tremendous biological phenomenon? Are we not very much inclined to think that there is life in those dark patches?

William Sinton's experiment

Emmanuel Kant has gone on record as saying: "merely to believe is to ignore." The same is true of science. To claim that human life on Mars is possible is not enough: one must also provide the evidence. That, of course, has always been the view of the astronomers. But it was the American, William Sinton, who succeeded in carrying out one of the most remarkable experiments in the history of astronomy.

Sinton, who was working at the time at Harvard Observatory, reasoned as follows. When the light given off by a luminous substance is caught in a spectroscope, the result is a series of lines each of which characterises a known chemical substance. Sodium, for example, is revealed by the emergence of two well-known lines in the yellow colour.

In some cases, the chemical link-up between different substances also results in the appearance of lines. The astronomer was, therefore, faced with two problems: (a) he had to investigate whether the chemical substance of life reveals itself in a spectrum in the form of one, or several characteristic lines; (b) if one, or several, of these lines exist can they also be found in the spectrum of Mars?

As regards the first question, Sinton had already succeeded, in 1955, in isolating two infra-red lines representing the CH link-up of the organic chemical content—itself the product of the carbon cycle. These lines had a wavelength of respectively 3.41 and 3.51 microns. Furthermore, they are lines projected by all organic substances of the biology we know on our own planet. In point of fact, *these lines are only to be found in such substances. Their presence in a spectrum thus proves that there is life there.*

Existence of life proved

Now for the second question. Sinton began by taking a series of pictures of Mars in infra-red at Harvard Observatory. These pictures were far from clear. Yet it was possible to assume the presence of the 3.41 wavelength. Although his experiment had proved only partially successful, Sinton took his electronic spectroscope to Palomar during the opposition of November, 1958. This time the results were truly sensational.

Indeed, not only did he succeed in detecting, some thirty times, with perfect clarity both the 3.41 and 3.51 wavelengths—thus being able to prove once and for all and with irrefutable evidence *that life on Mars does exist and is based on the carbon cycle*—but he also discovered a third band in the infra-red section, situated towards 3.67 microns. This he was unable at first to identify. But it was safe to assume that this band, too, represented a chemical link-up.*

What was there behind this 3.67 line? The mystery was finally solved a few weeks ago and that in a manner which dispels all doubts as to the possibility of life on Mars. This identification came about as follows. By systematic study of the organic spectrum in the hoping of locating this elusive line, it was finally discovered in the spectrum of a species of sea-weed called "Cladophora"; a species to be found along the Channel coast of Europe.

However, all that still left part of the question unanswered. What was the chemical content of this seaweed and why does it contain a 3.67 wavelength? More research followed and in the end the missing link was found to be—a lump of sugar! This lump was examined under a spectroscope and it was established beyond any doubt that this indeed was the vital clue. *For there is sugar in the Green Regions of Mars.*

I said earlier on that Sinton's discovery was nothing short of sensational. Surely this is no over-statement considering that within the space of a few months this American astronomer proved that there is life on Mars and further established the close connection existing between life on Mars and life on Earth.

Of course, it would be wrong to assume that Mars is full of cladophora! This species of sea-

**A full account of this experiment was published in* Lowell Observatory Bulletin No. 103, *Vol. IV, No. 15, September 25, 1959.*

weed exists only in surroundings containing water of which there is no equivalent on Mars. What's more, this type of seaweed cannot account for the progression taking place in the desert regions at the rate of 45 kilometres a day (i.e. about 22 miles). As is known, the Red Regions of Mars are dust deserts. True, it has been established, thanks to a type of seaweed called cladophora, that there is sugar in the dark regions of Mars. But the fact remains that this was a purely fortuitous discovery which should be treated as such.

Those famous canals

Now that we know that there is life in the dark regions of Mars, we must re-examine all that has been written about them: all those reports which observers have patiently compiled over the past 75 years. To begin with, there are the famous canals which—as we now know—are no channels but alignments of a green colour in which there is life. Such alignments are liable to variations which can be observed from year to year, or, to be more precise, every two years since oppositions only take place about every two years. *These variations are amazing and inexplicable.* Here is an example.

In 1909, Antoniadi reported the emergence on Mars in the centre of the Elysium desert (at 240 degrees longitude and 10 degrees latitude north), due north of Mare Cimmerum, a small green patch—an "oasis." In 1939, that is, thirty years later, the patch had vanished but the astronomers found that two outlines of channels had appeared at the northern and southern edges of the desert: at Cyclopia and Amenthes. The two channels grew longer during subsequent oppositions. In 1959, observers were amazed to discover that they had joined up after crossing 3,000 to 4,000 kilometres (i.e. 1,000 to 1,500 miles) of desert in a straight line. Further, they had joined up at exactly the same spot where Antoniadi had found his "oasis" fifty years earlier, as though they knew where they were going.

Third mystery : the satellites

How is one to account for this extraordinary phenomenon which developed for half a century over hundreds of miles with a touch of finality about it? As it happens, I am in a position to state that many of the world's leading authorities on Mars have asked themselves whether this phenomenon could be a demonstration of some mental activity; a proof of brain power, or, possibly, of some industrial development. Of course, none of them has so far admitted as much in writing. One cannot commit such thoughts to paper unless there is evidence to hand.

Since the recent Astronomical Conference in London, where a paper was read by the Soviet astro-physicist, Shklovski, it is by now common knowledge that there is also a mystery of the satellites. I don't intend to revert to this matter. However, it is necessary to point out that Shklovski's theory on the slowing down of Phobos (which he attributes to an artificial satellite) is the only one so far to have been put forward. Some astronomers made fun of him. Yet none has hitherto produced a different explanation. That is not at all surprising. Why?

The answer is simple enough: because there is no other explanation. Why indeed should there be a slowing down in the movement of Phobos when there is none in Deimos which looks like its twin brother? What difference is there between them, if any? To all appearances, the difference is only one of position, their respective sizes being appreciably the same.

Yet as a result of this difference, Phobos being the nearer is exposed to the resistance of the limits of the Martian atmosphere. That atmosphere is exceedingly thin and to have any effect Phobos would have to be *very light—in fact, so light as to be hollow*. But there is no such thing as a hollow heavenly body: not unless it happens to be an artificial one. That in short is the situation and there is no getting away from it.

If it be true that there is a brain power—or a brain—on Mars capable of building canals more than 1,000 miles long, and, perhaps, of launching satellites of 75 kilometres (about 40 miles) in diameter, such as Phobos and Deimos, weighing several hundred million tons, could it not be possible that the same brain has also sent rockets to *the planet nearest to Mars*—to our own planet?

If the so-called "canals" of Cyclopia and Amenthes are really what they appear to be, if Shklovski is right is affirming that the two satellites of Mars are in fact artificial satellites, then it can be said without much fear of contradiction that the flying saucers (or, at least, some of them) originate from Mars.

At any rate, that is how matters stand. Perhaps those astronomers who believe least in flying saucers will be the first to prove their existence, and reveal their origin. This is no far-fetched assumption for in a few years hence manned rockets will be fired to take close-ups of Phobos and Deimos. It is quite possible that this will take place in a year's time under cover of the next opposition.

Shall I conclude by revealing my innermost thoughts? Well, *I wish* the flying saucers do come from Mars. For this is almost our only hope of solving the mystery that now surrounds them.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

From all over the world reports of UFOs continue to reach this office in ever-increasing numbers. As we have space for only a small proportion, we would like to thank all our readers for sending in (and in some cases personally investigating) details of sightings which have occurred in their neighbourhood. Because some of these reports, perforce, cannot be printed, it does not mean that the effort has been wasted. All details are of the utmost importance to us, for from the totality of reports we are able to build up a global picture of the extra-terrestrial survey to which the Earth is being subjected.—Editor.

ENGLAND:

Merseyside woman sees saucer

"It was just like those pictures of flying saucers," declared Mrs. M. Sperring, of 30 Tilstock Avenue, New Ferry. She was describing an object she had observed on November 24, 1959. "I was hanging out clothes in my garden, which faces the river, when I noticed this object in the sky. It was definitely not an aircraft. It was shaped like a saucer, round, with a dome on the top from which a light was flashing. It appeared to be spinning. It was stationary at first, then began to move in the direction of Liverpool." A control officer at Liverpool Airport said that he knew of no aircraft in the vicinity at the time.

The sighting was reported in the *Liverpool Echo and Evening News* of the same day, but we are indebted to Mr. R. A. Rawlinson who obtained further details from Mrs. Sperring. She wrote that she saw the object "with no ifs and buts." "It was a beautiful day," she added, "I was doing a very ordinary job of work."

On the report form which she filled in for the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW she mentions that the object had a silvery base with a yellow dome which looked as though it was lit up. It was spinning with a clock-wise motion. Giving an opinion of its apparent size, she estimated it as about that of a Dakota aircraft.

ENGLAND:

Cheltenham visitor

We are indebted to Mr. Arthur Constance who promptly investigated an occurrence in his neighbourhood on December 27. Miss H. McKean, a 77-year-old retired physiotherapist who lives in Suffolk Square, Cheltenham, saw a luminous gold-coloured object cross her window. When interviewed she said: "It moved slowly over Montpellier at 3.30 in the morning, travelling silently from East to West."

ENGLAND:

Contact claim

Engineer James Cook, of Runcorn, Cheshire, claims contact with a visitor from outer space. Further, he claims that during November, 1959, he was picked up by a space vehicle which had alighted at the top of Helsby Hill, Frodsham. "After flying about for a while, the saucer went into a mother ship and off to the planet Shebic," claims Mr. Cook. "The planet was bigger than earth," he continued," and the days are longer and the nights exceedingly cold. The people are 5 ft. 2 in. tall with golden brown skin. There is no industry and no birds." Mr. Cook returned the next night, landing at Moore, not far from his home.

ENGLAND:

Banbury folk see UFO

Many people in Banbury and the surrounding area saw an unidentified object travelling across the sky in a westerly direction on December 7, 1959. The police received a number of calls reporting the incident.

The object first appeared in the evening over the Adderbury and Twyford area. Lord Elton's son, the Hon. Rodney Elton, was one of those who got in touch with the police. He said that the object was a "pear-shaped, bright light with a trail of vapour at the rear."

Two police officers, P.C. Eric Prescott and P.C. Charles Boland, were patrolling the Banbury-Oxford road and they saw the object at Twyford. To them it appeared as a very bright blue flash. A railwayman working near Banbury station gave this descrip-

tion: "It was a flashing light with a vapour trail and it looked like one of the space-ships we hear so much about."

This report is taken from the *Oxford Times* of December 11, 1959, and from other sources.

SCOTLAND:
More Sightings

In our January/February issue we reported that UFOs over Scotland had been particularly active during recent months. *The Scottish Daily Express* of November 23, 1959, reported that a mystery explosion had rocked the Wellington Square district of Ayr the night before. Police searched the area but could find no explanation. It occurred a few minutes before 7.30 p.m. during a strong wind and rainstorm. Householders had glimpsed a flash before the explosion, but could not pin-point the location of either the sight or the sound.

On December 12, 1959, *The Scottish Daily Express* printed a letter from a Mrs. Helen Taylor, of Contin by Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, reporting that on November 28 she and her husband had seen a bluish-white ball falling from the sky. It was dazzling to look at and was visible for about five seconds. Mrs. Taylor added that it looked about half a mile away but must have been farther.

SOUTH WALES:
Night sky puzzle

A strange red object high up in the sky was seen by at least three people north of Cardiff on the night of November 19, 1959. Mrs. Nancy Lewis, of Ty Nant, Whitchurch, was one of those who saw the object: so did her brother-in-law, Mr. Goronwy Lewis, of Davies Terrace, Whitchurch. Mrs. Lewis reported that at about 9.45 p.m. an object, very high in the sky, "seemed to go off in all directions. Suddenly it seemed to shoot straight upwards." Mrs. Lewis added, "It was definitely not a firework—it lasted far too long."

The object was also seen by Mr. Norman Dell, of Summerfield Place, Cardiff. He described the object as red, quite bright, and travelling in a south-westerly direction. He, too, was sure that it wasn't a firework.

NEW ZEALAND:
A crop of sightings

Walter and Brian Hawkins, two brothers from Marton, who were motoring from Marton to Matamata early on Saturday morning, October 31, 1959, reported that they were accompanied by a strange, unidentified object ("like a large street light") from Ohingaiti to the Desert Road. The object followed the brothers for nearly sixty miles. The younger of the two brothers was "really scared." At the top of the hill at Mangaweka, the driver stopped the car and the object moved around in a valley below like a helicopter. The brothers said that the object did not fly alongside the car, but moved about. At Waiouri the light disappeared and reappeared when the car was on the Desert Road. By then all the stars had disappeared with the approach of daylight. Suddenly the object went straight up into the sky and disappeared.

On the same day a Mrs. K. Anderson, of Pembroke Road, Stratford, saw an object shaped like a cross and about three times brighter than a star. Mrs. Anderson had looked out of her bathroom window and saw the object floating above some trees over her property. "Its tail was shaped like that of a mermaid. It kept hovering above the trees, which are about 30 or 40 feet high for about 15 minutes. Then it slowly moved up into the sky and out of sight."

During November strange sights continued to be seen. Mr. A. J. Harris, of Wanganui, was visiting Waitara. In company with several others he saw, at 10.10 p.m. on the night of November 21, an object streaking across the sky and leaving a brilliantly white trail. The light, which began in the northern sky, slashed its brilliant path from north to south-west, disappearing behind Mount Egmont. Mr. Harris is familiar with shooting stars and rules them out as a possible explanation. He allows, however, for the possibility that the object may have been a Lunik.

On the same night, Mr. R. Patterson, of Nelson, made a detailed report of a similar sighting to that of Mr. Harris. He then telephoned the United States Embassy at Wellington. He was questioned closely by a U.S.A. Army spokesman. The interest of the American authorities was ascribed to official curiosity as to the fate of Discoverer VIII, unsuccessfully launched from a base on the Pacific coast.

On December 8, 1959, dozens of people watched a strange object in the sky over Invercargill shortly after midnight. An eyewitness, an Invercargill insurance agent, said he was travelling down Elles Road South when he noticed crowds of children pointing to the sky. He did not take much notice until he saw housewives and shopkeepers coming out to have a look. Stopping his car, the insurance agent saw what he described as an object much bigger than a DC3 aircraft. It was longer by far and looked "just like a saucer looks when placed upside down on a table, only it was the same thickness all along." It was hovering at about 1,000 feet below cloud level.

(*Source*: *"Taranaki Daily News." Grateful acknowledgments to Mrs. Violet L. Scott, New Plymouth, New Zealand.*)

NEW ZEALAND:
Businessmen frightened

On November 3, 1959, two Invercargill businessmen who wish to remain anonymous, saw a big flying object when they were driving towards Invercargill along the Dunedin highway at night. They first saw a bright light above some pine trees between Woodlands and Kennington.

It appeared to be rectangular in shape, with a huge balloon-shaped section below. One of the men estimated the rectangular part to be at least 40 ft. long and

it was glowing with a brilliant light. The balloon part he estimated to be the size of a large room.

As their car drew close, the object accelerated quickly in a northerly direction "at tremendous speed," to all appearances changing to sausage shape as it did so. The object was now brilliant white.

"I've never believed in these flying saucer reports, but now I just don't know what to think," one of the witnesses remarked. "The two of us saw it for fully half a minute and we were close to it. We could hear no noise, but no balloon could move as quickly as it did."

CANADA: What thundered into Buffer Lake?

This is the question being asked on Gerome Florizone's farm in the Vonda district of Saskatchewan. Was it a meteorite; an aircraft; the nose cone from a space missile; or a flying saucer? The first evidence of something unusual afoot was discovered by Louis Florizone on the morning of October 22, 1959, as he herded cattle along the edge of the lake. He was astonished to see a heap of mud and ice neatly piled in the shallow lake a quarter of a mile from the shore. This huge pile of mud was the first of its kind Mr. Gerome Florizone had seen in all his thirty years on the farm. It was so unusual that as soon as his son had reported it he notified the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable Robert Harrison at Vonda.

The possibility that an aircraft had plunged into the lake has been ruled out since there is no evidence or peculiar markings to indicate that a plane has crashed there, and, what is more important, no aircraft has been reported missing. A *Star-Phoenix* reporter, in the October 24 issue of that paper, adds the following account: "Large chips of thin ice and chunks of mud have been churned up into a compact pile six feet high and about 20 feet wide. It is easy to imagine the pile was created in front of a blade on a giant bull-dozer, because 40 feet in front of the pile a straight path has been cleared."

While investigators were busy enquiring into the mystery, the Florizones recalled being awakened a week before their astonishing discovery by a loud noise which Gerome thought at the time was a clap of heavy thunder.

Staff members of the local University Department of Geology debated whether it would be worth their while to check if the mystery object was a meteorite. They have considered making a magnetometer test in the area.

AMERICA: California policemen sees saucers

A vivid description of a UFO was given by two Fontana police officers while on routine patrol on the evening of December 1, 1959. Police Sergeant Robert L. Cochran and Reserve Officer W. B. Brandon were east of Fontana when, from the intersection of Barbee, and Palmetto Avenues, they "saw this large object at 7 o'clock on the horizon. It gave off an immense white and red light and was large and round in shape. It hovered and the light was so bright that it lit up the entire area. After a short period of time it, the object took off at a tremendous speed, leaving distinct vapour trails from the jet-like apparatus and shortly disappeared." Drawing a picture of what they saw, Brandon and Cochran described a large lamp-shade device with the light from this source coming down to earth in the manner that a large flash-light focuses on an object. A corroborating statement came from a Del Rosa resident who had seen the same object.

Cochran added to his account: "I was a disbeliever in flying saucer stories before, but I am not any more."

The above report appeared in the San Bernardino *Daily Sun*, December 3, 1959, and we are indebted to our correspondent, Mrs. June Traugam, for sending these details, to which she adds that she has subsequently been able to trace further witnesses whose evidence tallies exactly with that of the two policemen.

ISRAEL: Mystery object

We take the following account from the *Jerusalem Post*, November 3, 1959:

"TEL AVIV. — A mysterious object flashed across the Tel Aviv skyline at 9.05 p.m. on Monday night. It had a very bright head and a long, scintillating tail.

It rose from above Jaffa and sped in the direction of the sea, travelling noiselessly and faster than a jet fighter.

The phenomenon, which was seen by this reporter, touched off speculation as to whether it was a star, a jet-plane, a rocket, a 'flying saucer,' a Sputnik or a Lunik, and whether it was of Russian, American, Israel or Arab origin.

The Lydda meteorological station, however, had not spotted the object and could offer no explanation for it.

A Jerusalem resident, Mr. David Zinder, reported that he saw a long, pencil-thin streak of light in the sky at about 9.05 p.m.

A similar phenomenon was reported from Beersheba just over a week ago."

The first contact of the century?

an old mystery revived

"*Daily Mail,* May 20 [1909]—that a man, named Lithbridge, of 4 Roland Street, Cardiff, Wales, had, in the office of the *Cardiff Evening Express,* told a marvellous story. This story was that, upon the 18th May, about 11 p.m., while walking along a road, near the Caerphilly Mountains, Wales, he had seen, on the grass, at the side of the road, a large tube-shaped construction. In it were two men, in heavy fur overcoats. When they saw Mr. Lithbridge, they spoke excitedly to each other, in a foreign language, and sailed away. Newspaper men visited the place, and found the grass trampled, and found a scattering of torn newspapers and other debris. If anybody else wants to think that these foreigners were explorers from Mars or the Moon, here is a story that, of course, can be reasoned out quite, or almost, satisfactorily." *The Works of Charles Fort, page* 632.

WHEN a contributor to a national magazine five years ago was reviewing the history of flying saucers he mentioned this incident. As it had happened so long ago, he did not stress the matter which might easily have gone to sleep again but for the industry of a reporter on the *Cardiff Weekly Mail* who took the trouble to look into the files of the evening paper on whose office the startled contactee—if such he was—had called with his unusual story. Many new facts in elaboration of Charles Fort's necessarily condensed version came to light. In the first place, the man involved was named Lethbridge, not Lithbridge. The name may not be important, but it has a certain significance, as will be seen later. (The error, by the way, may have been the *Daily Mail's* and not Charles Fort's, but editors of future impressions of his book, please note.) Now follows the fuller account of the story as recently re-told:

"The man who caused the sensation was a Mr. C. Lethbridge, of Roland Street, Cardiff, who during the winter months worked at Cardiff Docks, but in the summer travelled the district with a Punch and Judy show. And on the night when he was to see something which, nearly half a century later, was destined to suggest he had made history, he was walking home from Senghenydd over the Caerphilly Mountain. 'I reached the top of the mountain at about 11 o'clock,' said Lethbridge, in an interview the following day, 'and when turning the bend at the summit, I was surprised to see a long tube-shaped affair lying on the grass with two men busily engaged with something nearby. They attracted my attention because of their peculiar get-up. They appeared to have big, heavy fur coats, and fur caps fitted tightly over their heads.

"'I was rather frightened, but I continued to go on until I was within 20 yards of them. The noise of my little spring cart seemed to attract them, and when they saw me they jumped up and jabbered furiously in a strange lingo.' Then Mr. Lethbridge said he really became frightened, for at that moment 'the long thing on the ground rose up slowly—I was standing still quite amazed—and when it was hanging a few feet off the ground the men jumped into a kind of little carriage suspended from it and gradually the whole affair and the men rose into the air in a zig-zag fashion.

Wheels—and a whirling fan

"'When they had cleared the telegraph wires that pass over the mountain, two lights, like electric lamps, shone out, and the thing went higher into the air and sailed away across Cardiff.'

"In subsequent cross-examination by newspaper reporters, Mr. Lethbridge said that as the strange craft rose into the air, he distinctly saw what looked like a couple of wheels at the bottom of the little carriage, and at the tail a whirling fan."

"Next day," *The Cardiff Mail* reporter continued, "there were signs of recent trampling on

the grass and quite a collection of torn newspapers. Nearby was quite a quantity of pulpy paper, like papier mâché, thought to have been used to repair the machine, which it was suggested had grounded for this purpose. But perhaps the most significant discovery in the immediate vicinity was a red label, in French, attached to a chain and a small pin. This was described on the following day by a Norwegian residing in Cardiff and engaged on airship construction as being the instrument used to regulate the valve fixed on to the pump which injected air from the atmosphere into an airship. Forty-eight hours later more reports were received from Cardiff people of nocturnal visits by the mysterious cigar-shaped airship.

"A report from Pentyrch said that the object was very large, with two lights, one at each end. A report from Dublin about the same time stated that it appeared to have a cigar-shaped body 'with two clear lights in front and travelling at a considerable pace across the sky.'"

In the early hours of Friday, May 21, several people in the Newport area reported seeing an airship crossing the town and heading for Cardiff. A Newport photographer took a picture of it in flight over Stow Hill. It was reproduced in the Cardiff *Evening Express*.

Aeronauts experimenting?

The writer who has told us all this after a lapse of fifty years ends his account with an open mind as to what Mr. Lethbridge actually saw. However, we have purposely omitted from his story a number of interpolations which indicate that he is of a sceptical turn of mind. He prefaces his remarks by saying that in his opinion they were either experimenting aeronauts on an evening run in a home-made airship or balloon, or, at the worst, foreign spies on a reconnaissance. (Here, at least, we can recognise our old friend, the secret weapon theory.) When referring to Mr. Lethbridge's account of the strangers "jabbering in a strange lingo," he comments: "It is rather significant, I think, that Mr. Lethbridge admitted it might have been Welsh!" Now, Lethbridge is a Devon name and this would explain why he couldn't understand the language of his adopted country. It is surprising, however, that he could not, apparently, recognise the tongue by its unmistakable intonation: this he must have heard every day of his life.

Later on, the account mentions that there had been at the time considerable aeronautic experiment in England—"and in Germany, whose army airships were reputed to have a range of 800 miles."

Another interjection by our sceptical writer mentions that an object seen in the sky over Pontypool had been explained away by a Mr. Swanton, who said he had been experimenting with a model airship about seven feet long and had released it in that area complete with an electric flare light. On the same night a Newport man had sent up two fire balloons! This last item will call to mind the official French "explanation" of a whole series of bizarre incidents in 1954—they were caused by a mischievous but anonymous French miner who had followed the example set for him by the equally anonymous man from Newport fifty years before.

Advertising automobiles!

Another "plausible" explanation is then put forward that it was an advertising stunt, for on May 26 it was claimed that a wrecked airship was found on the Dunstable Downs. Charles Fort has something characteristically ironical to say about this.

"A large imitation-airship had 'come down' at Dunstable, and the lights had been upon that. It was an advertising scheme. An automobile manufacturer had been dragging the thing around in England and Wales. . . . I suppose that such a thing could be dragged slowly, and for a short time, perhaps only a few minutes, because it was of hot-air-inflation, along a road, and conceivably through a city or two, with a policeman, who reported seeing lights in the sky, not seeing a rope going up from an automobile: but, with whatever degree of advancement that of mine may be, I do not think of any such successful imposition in about forty large cities, some of them several hundred miles apart."

What did Mr. Lethbridge see? That we may never know, but the writer in the *Cardiff Weekly Mail,* intending to debunk the story, has in fact strengthened it. His conventionalisations have failed in their cumulative effect. If we are to give each of them their full weight, Mr. Lethbridge must have seen two German spies in a French airship talking Welsh playing a practical joke in order to advertise an automobile. It's simpler, we think, to suggest that he saw two men from Mars.

LIFE IN SPACE

the quest for clues

IN an interesting article in *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 14, 1959, Robert C. Cowen, Natural Science Editor, reported the most recent discoveries in the search for evidence that life exists on other planets.

On November 13, during the second of the 1959 Karl Taylor Compton Seminars at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, two important developments were announced as part of the seminar which was devoted to extra-terrestrial life. First, Professor Melvin Calvin, of the University of California at Berkeley, reported finding chemicals in meteorites that appear to be identical with or closely similar to compounds associated with material life on the earth.

Startling results

He had always assumed that one would have to wait until men could sample the moon and planets directly, either in person or by unmanned probes, before definite analyses could be made, but his attention had been called to the fact that certain meteorites contained carbon, an element basic to the chemistry of organic life on the earth. This was material from inter-planetary space which was raining in all the time: men did not have to go out to collect it. There was already enough material to begin analysing. The early results had proved startling.

Dr. Calvin has not yet identified specific organic compounds, but he has extracted several which are obviously complex organic molecules. Studies of their spectra in infra-red and ultra-violet light indicate that at least some of them are similar to a class of compounds called pyrimidines and purines which are part of the genetic material of living cells.

These compounds were extracted from material taken from the central part of a large meteorite which fell in Kentucky in 1950. The outer part of the meteorite had been intensely heated by atmospheric friction when it fell, but the centre remained cool and undamaged. Thus the chemicals found there presumably were formed in space. Dr. Calvin's conclusion, in his own words, is that "The question of whether there are prebiotic forms (chemicals associated with the rise of life on the earth) out in space seems to be answered in the affirmative."

Dr. Struve, the 1959 Karl Taylor Compton lecturer, followed Dr. Calvin on the platform and referred to his report as challenging and exciting. Dr. Struve went on to point out that it is virtually certain that life has arisen on planets of at least some of the many stars within our galaxy where there are believed to be favourable circumstances. He mentioned two such stars within 16 light years of our sun. "Measured in miles this is a long way off," he added, "but it is within reach of the sensitive radio telescopes at Greenbank and at some other observatories to-day. The probability of picking up a broadcast from another planet circling a distant star is very small, but we must not absolutely assume that all radio signals from the sky are produced by natural causes."

Project OZMA has been established at Greenbank to explore this admittedly remote possibility of detecting the existence of extra-terrestrial intelligent life. Dr. Struve went on to say that every radio astronomer is now aware of the possibility of detecting or even communicating with intelligent beings on other planets. It was the first time, he concluded, that the science of astronomy had been faced with such a challenge.

Planetary radio signals?

This last statement is not strictly accurate. Astronomers have been faced with plenty of evidence that intelligent life exists on other planets, but as many of them have argued that such life is impossible, they have been obliged either to ignore the evidence or to explain it away. The strongest argument in favour of extra-terrestrial intelligent life is the flying saucer.

Dr. Struve's suggestion has found a prompt endorsement. The London *Observer* of Novem-

Keyhoe versus Adamski: epilogue

IN our January/February issue we reported that George Adamski had—through his secretary—filed a lengthy and detailed reply to NICAP's accusations regarding a claim to have been taken for a ride in a saucer over Kansas City in 1958. We looked anxiously through the November NICAP Bulletin to see whether Donald Keyhoe had decided to give the reply as much space as he devoted to the original charges, but we were not very surprised to see that the defendant had been deprived of the customary right of answering back. Instead, Keyhoe seems to have adopted the Nuremburg procedure of combining the role of prosecutor and judge—with the same foregone conclusion. Keyhoe's method of sentencing Adamski has been to canvass a poll of NICAP members, with the following results:

	True	*False*
	%	%
Kansas City Claim	18	82
All claims	13	87

A few comments must be made on the result. We have consistently warned our readers against incomplete statistics in any shape or form. Unless NICAP is willing to disclose the total of those voting, such percentages are meaningless. How otherwise can we judge whether this poll was truly representative? Was the jury packed? Did the voters number as few as six or as many as six thousand?

A surprising feature

If the voters constituted a large number, the most surprising feature of the result is that the Kansas City incident compared so favourably with the other claims: after all, the heat was turned on to discredit the Kansas City claim in particular.

The absurdity of NICAP's behaviour, however, can best be illustrated by considering its method of arriving at the truth. This cannot be reached by democratic means. The majority, as we know, disbelieves in all interplanetary saucers. Is Keyhoe prepared to abandon his position and to repudiate his books if a public opinion poll were to go against him, as it most certainly would? We hold that where saucers are concerned the majority is definitely wrong. What does the NICAP poll then prove? Absolutely nothing, except, perhaps, that Keyhoe was rather anxious to close an argument that was proving more difficult to sustain than he had anticipated.

NICAP goes marching on its stately procession backwards. Elsewhere in its bulletin it refers to the Papuan sighting in June, 1959, which has by now been reported in detail all over the globe. As we predicted, NICAP finds the story a real poser in view of its attitude over other contact claims. It promises that "a complete report will be made if justified by the evidence." What further evidence can NICAP or anybody else now discover at this distance of time? Either Father Gill and his witnesses saw the saucer and its occupants or they are all a lot of thundering liars. And that is about all that can be said.

Hopes dashed

The high hopes that we all entertained when NICAP was first formed have been dashed and it is small wonder that widespread disillusionment is settling in. NICAP has proved itself to be neither fair nor fearless. It has taken us so far along the road and has then got stuck in the mud, terrified of what lies ahead. One alternative is to give the animal a shove from behind—not always an effective method of dealing with mules—and the other is to change the steed.

Continued from page 21.

ber 1, 1959, quoting from *Nature*, reports that two American scientists, Guiseppe Cocconi and Philip Morrison, both of Cornell University, New York, advise that a serious search be made for radio signals coming from civilisations on planets circling round other suns in our galaxy. The scientists go on to say that other stars in the galaxy similar to the sun probably have planets, and one or two of these planets could well support "civilisations with scientific interests, and with technical possibilities much greater than those available to us." Such civilisations, they assert, would expect science to develop near our sun, and might send out radio signals in the hope of an answer.

These signals would be most likely to be sent out on a frequency around 1,420 megacycles, since communication over huge distances is possible at this wavelength. Furthermore, it is the frequency of radio waves emitted by neutral hydrogen atoms in inter-stellar space. This frequency would soon attract the attention of radio astronomers of any civilisation interested in radio astronomy. "The presence of inter-stellar signals is entirely consistent with all we know now," the scientists maintain. "A discriminating search for signals deserves a considerable effort."

What is the official view?

A sensational letter sheds new light

IT is not the usual policy of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to publish information without quoting the source or sources from which it was obtained. In this instance, however, we have thought it permissible to depart from rule. In the first place, we think that the letter from which we shall quote contains such valuable guidance for our readers that we should not withhold its message. Secondly, the information tallies so closely with what we have suspected (and written) that, if the genuineness of the letter can be assumed, we have at last a glimpse into the official mind on the subject of flying saucers. Furthermore, if we read this letter aright, then we can be of the greatest help to the authorities in getting the truth over to the general public.

Behind the scenes

The letter was written to one of our associates, and we have no reason at all to doubt that the writer is in a position to know what he is talking about: he is in close touch with those who, behind the scenes, collate the information about saucers which is fed to at least two powerful governments. We regret that we cannot, at the moment, reveal the identity of the writer, but we are completely satisfied as to his bona-fides: we are most definitely not withholding his name because of any official pressure put upon us.

Our correspondent writes: "It is my belief that military secrecy on this subject will be dropped within two years, for it is a subject which is of high value to the public for its immense possibilities and importance. There is a good case for the UFO, but not (officially) for the interplanetary spaceship—Why? Because if a UFO is observed, all we see is an object, point of light or manifestation which passes within our atmosphere. The object may manœuvre very intelligently, but this alone is not proof (officially) that it is a spaceship from another world . . . just one incident is not enough to conclude substantially that space people are visiting us (officially). There are many incidents which point towards this, but the military departments are not going to reveal anything of this nature to the public until they are 100 per cent. sure, so the spaceships will have to land *en masse* at a part of a country which is about 80 per cent., or over, friendly towards them. But where in the world is there such an area?

"There will come a time when flying saucer groups will play an important part in the protection of our visitors by going to an area where they will land—that is why the [FLYING SAUCER] REVIEW and many other magazines and groups are so important, for there is a good contact between these and it would take very little time to call up every person who is in that country and go to the area. Is this impossible—what is impossible?"

We of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW are convinced that the saucers are extra-terrestrial. It would seem that the powers that be agree with that view, but lack sufficient proof to put before the uncommitted public. We can add, however, that, from another passage in the same letter which we think it inadvisable to quote in full, those critics of George Adamski within the saucer movement are going to look very foolish when the truth does come out—that is, of course, if we can accept the validity of all that is in the letter which we have read. In other words, even if the authorities have no absolute proof of the extra-terrestrial source of the visitors, they are a good way along that road.

Why evidence is withheld

We can add something more. What is proof? It is, in effect, not an absolute but a relative term. There are many sceptics who will refuse proof in any form until the proper time. What we read into this letter is that until the general public is better prepared for the truth, the full evidence must be withheld, not out of fear of any panic, but because it would at present be rejected. Our

Where gravity does not rule

an African mystery

MANY people believe that the flying saucers are propelled by some force which derives from gravity, and elsewhere in this issue we print the announcement of a competition for essays on the subject.* We suggest that investigators might like to read the following account taken from a recent issue of *The Friend* newspaper, Bloemfontein, South Africa. If gravity really does work "backwards" at this spot, then the hill may contain the secret that has so far eluded all researchers.

"Every time Mr. Anthony Kalil, the owner of a Johannesburg welding works, thinks of gravity he bursts out laughing.

It concerns a hill about six miles from Johannesburg along the main road to Vereeniging. Clearly the hill has never heard of Sir Isaac Newton and the apple because, unlike its fellow hills, this one works backwards.

Apparently gravity is reversed on the hill, as Mr. Kalil discovered the other day when he stopped his car at the foot of it. To his astonishment the car started moving, gathered momentum and free-wheeled up the slope to the top of the hill.

Thoroughly intrigued he turned the car around and tried free-wheeling down again. The car solemnly drifted backwards to the crest of the hill.

The test

Yesterday I went with Mr. Kalil and tried it out for myself. It looks like any other hill. It is not very steep and has tall grass and an occasional thorn tree on either side.

'Which way does it slope?' Mr. Kalil asked.

'It goes up from here,' I said.

Mr. Kalil switched off the engine and released the brake. We free-wheeled majestically up the hill.

'How do you like that?' said Mr. Kalil triumphantly. 'If Isaac Newton had been sitting under the apple tree at this spot we still would not understand gravity,' I said.

We stopped the car and examined the hill, even getting down on our stomachs in an attempt to solve the mystery. It still baffled us. Apparently it uses gravity smoothly and efficiently—but the wrong way round.

As we got into the car to drive away Mr. Kalil had the last word. 'Crazy, mixed-up hill. It should see a psychiatrist—or a surveyor.'"

* *p.* 28.

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aim, as we have already written, must be to persuade. To put pressure on certain government departments is a misapplication of effort. The pressure of persuasion needs to be applied to the general public. There has been talk of the lunatic fringe recently. What we think needs saying is that it is not what these people believe (some of them may be right), but the way they say it that constitutes the lunacy. To persuade one must often under-state and never assume that the audience is as advanced as the teacher. Turn the present minority of believers into a majority, however slight, and all the doors are open.

Air Ministry admission

We believe that the desired result can be achieved within a reasonable period of time, say two or three years. When we are convinced that the number of believers has increased sufficiently —our circulation, for instance, seems to provide a very sensitive barometer—we have further plans which cannot, at the moment, be put into effect for the very reasons which, according to our correspondent, are inhibiting two governments from making any official pronouncement.

Just as we were going to press, confirmation of the above has been received in a reference to a statement issued by the British Air Ministry some time ago. *Prediction* for February is quoting from a recent saucer book which, in turn, quotes from the London *Sunday Dispatch*. The Air Ministry has gone on record to the effect that their five-year investigation of UFOs is not to be made public. It is to be locked away and may never be released, for the Air Ministry is afraid that it will encounter or promote much scepticism. *Prediction* makes the very sound observation that if the report had rejected saucers, then there would be no scepticism. In other words, the Air Ministry is, in a roundabout way, admitting their existence. More than ever it is necessary to repeat our advice: We must concentrate on converting the public at large. If we succeed, all else will be added.

Life on other planets . . . 3

Is VENUS inhabited?

by W. R. DRAKE

FROM behind a veil of world-wide legends, occult lore and ancient writings, almost as impenetrable as the pearly clouds concealing the planet Venus itself, emerges a most fascinating story.

The Babylonians hailed Venus as Ishtar, the shining Queen. To the Hindus she was Lakshmi, a Goddess sprung from the sea like Cyprian Aphrodite, while the Chinese adored her as Taipe, the beautiful White One. The Greeks worshipped Venus as Phosphorus and Hesperus, the Morning and Evening Star, and personified her as their patron Athene, glorious virgin Goddess, who gave her name to Athens. Aeneas, the son of Mars and Venus (we would say the son of Space Beings), followed his mother in the sky to the arms of Dido, only to be led away to Italy, where his scion Romulus founded Rome; centuries later Venus snatched up the soul of her descendant Julius Caesar to set among the stars.

Once a comet?

Some of the Ancients believed that Venus was originally a comet whose flowing tresses scourged our Earth at least twice in cosmic destruction; Babylonian star-lists omit Venus until the middle of the second millennium before our era when the planet suddenly appeared. Velikovsky, with staggering erudition, has dredged the writings of antiquity to prove that about 1500 B.C. a celestial intruder hurtled into our solar system and attacked the Earth; its gaseous tail turned rivers to blood, dust caused widespread plagues, day became night. In Egypt the first-born were killed by earthquakes, hurricanes parted the waters of the Red Sea, facilitating the flight of Moses and the Israelites, who followed the blazing head of the comet, their Pillar of Fire, through the Wilderness. Some of the carbohydrates in the tail precipitated into a substance like fragrant honey, which fed the wanderers. This was the manna from heaven; in Greece poets extolled it as ambrosia, nectar of the Gods.

Fifty-two years later the comet again swished our Earth, ravaging the Middle East, and Mexico. Torrents of fire and stones rained down from heaven, the sun and moon stood still while Joshua slew the hosts of Canaan. The walls of Jericho fell down; earthquakes shattered Knossus and the brilliant civilisation of Crete. We may have cause to be grateful, for legends from as far apart as Persia and America say that the comet drenched those countries with firewater which we now pump up from underground and call petroleum.

The evil planet, Maldek

For eight centuries Venus terrified the Earth and was feared as Lucifer, the fallen Morning Star or as Satan, the Evil One, tormenting mankind. Milton in *Paradise Lost* said that the inclination of the Earth's axis, 23½ degrees, was produced after the fall of Adam, "by Angels coming in the name of Divine wrath to chastise the disobedience of our first parents"; clearly a reference to a collision with Venus, whose inhabitants were long known to the Illumined as "Guardians of our Earth." The universal destruction caused the Red Indians to propitiate the Morning Star with human sacrifice. In 767 B.C. a collision with Mars knocked Venus into a nearly circular orbit, removing all menace, though Earth again suffered immense devastation. Unfortunately Mars became unbalanced by the shock and in 687 B.C. caused even more damage to stricken Earth, which, according to various

religions, took centuries to settle down to its present orbit.

The masterly arguments of Velikovsky with all their marshalled authorities seem difficult to refute, but all the Space Intelligences and our own occultists on Earth deny that Venus was to blame and ascribe these cataclysms to the evil planet Maldek blown up into asteroids. Hoerbiger, with somewhat confused chronology, blames the capture of our present moon.

Venus orbits the sun in 224.7 days in an almost perfect circle at a solar distance of 67,000,000 miles (about 25,000,000 miles from the Earth) at an orbital speed of 21¾ miles per second. The synodical year of Venus, that is the period elapsing before it returns to the same position opposite our Earth, is 584 days. This Venus Year was known 2,000 years ago to the peoples of East and West; five synodical years of Venus equal 2,919.6 days. Julius Caesar fixed a calendar of 365¼ days; eight Julian years equal 2,922 days. That is a difference between the Julian and Venusian calendars of only one day in four years. On that extra day the Greeks, who knew of this centuries earlier, dedicated to Venus-Athene their Olympic Games; in this twentieth century we bow to our Venuses on Earth by giving them Leap Year.

An astronomical joke

The period of rotation of Venus is one of the jokes of astronomy. Belopolsky asserted that the spectroscope determined that Venus rotated in 24 hours, Brenner conjured up the astounding refinement of 23 hours, 57 minutes, and 7.5459 seconds, Dr. Slipher retorted that the spectroscope showed 225 days, while Dr. Kuiper ridiculed these estimates and opined that the planet rotates in 28 days, but it could be more or even less.

After the sun and moon, Venus is the brightest object in the sky; it is believed to receive twice as much light and heat as Earth. It is brilliant enough to cast small shadows and can be seen in daylight. Venus is almost a twin of Earth with a diameter of 7,700 miles, only 200 miles less than ours; they are closer in space than any other planets. The gravity of Venus is said to be only slightly less than Earth's. As Galileo discovered in 1610, Venus goes through phases from a large fine crescent to a bright pearly disc. Unfortunately for us the planet has by then moved to the other side of the sun and appears quite small.

By spectroscopic analysis, Sir William Huggins found that Venus has no atmosphere, and by spectroscopic analysis most astronomers find that Venus has an atmosphere dense enough to obscure almost completely the surface of the planet. The atmosphere of Venus, which ultraviolet and infra-red photographs fail to penetrate, baffles astronomers; its spectrum is interpreted with widely different results. Some experts claim that the atmosphere is carbon-dioxide without any water-vapour; H. Suess says the turbulent clouds consist of sodium-chloride and magnesium-chloride produced by evaporation of former oceans, but R. Wildt says the clouds are clearly formaldehyde. However, that famous saucer-debunker, Dr. Menzel, swears they must be clouds of water-vapour.

Rich in oxygen?

These uninspiring analyses concern only the upper atmosphere. Firsoff believes that the lower stratum may be as rich in oxygen as on Earth, making human life possible. Thermocouple measurements are said to show that the temperature of Venus is minus 38° but our own meteorological balloons indicate such violent extremes in strata of our own atmosphere that any measurement of Venus seems worthless. The radio-astronomers would have us believe that the surface of Venus is racked with tropical thunderstorms.

Despite dense clouds, faint markings on Venus can sometimes be seen. In 1789 and 1793, Schroeter reported that irregularities at the crescent terminator proved mountains 27 miles high but Sir William Herschel disagreed and flatly said so. Lowell, of Martian Canal fame, saw natural not artificial waterways running through the barren, straw-coloured rock; no one else admits to seeing anything but the faintest of marks. Bright areas at the horns of the crescent are thought by some to indicate polar-caps, but they could be phenomena of the polar atmosphere. The most intriguing feature of Venus is the ashen light or faint luminosity on the dark side; Gruithuisen, famous for his walled city on the moon a hundred years ago, opined that the Venusians set the woods on fire whenever they elected a new Emperor. It occurs to us that this illumination may be similar to our Earth-light from energy released by the synthesis of oxygen and nitrogen or the ionisation of free atoms. This suggests that the Venusian atmosphere may be like our own.

There are four main theories regarding surface conditions on Venus. Svart Arrhenius, Nobel Prize Winner, said Venus had a humidity three times that of the Congo and was covered with gigantic tropical vegetation sodden with wet and waiting to be compressed into coal as in the Carboniferous Age on Earth millions of years ago.

This fantasy is ridiculed by the official theory which pronounces Venus as a dust-bowl racked with volcanic eruptions, desert gales and choking poisonous atmosphere. Dr. Whipples and Dr. Menzel agree that the whole surface of Venus is completely covered with water which has dissolved large volumes of the carbon-dioxide to make oceans of soda-water; the radio-astronomers claim a thick atmosphere of carbon-dioxide lashed by cyclones above tropical islands in seas of boiling water.

In spite of all this, Russian rocketeers persist in planning to land on Venus; we doubt whether they are putting themselves to such trouble just to drown in soda-water, unless combining the carbon, oxygen and hydrogen in the spectrum they analyse the oceans as vodka?

On digesting the foregoing information, which comprises practically all astronomers know of elusive Venus, we agree with that immortal astronomer-poet, Omar Khayyam, who sadly complained that from Doctor and Saint he heard great argument but evermore came out by the same door as in he went.

Most powerful planet

From the most ancient times students of the occult have believed Venus to be the most powerful and mysterious of all the planets, the one whose influence on Earth has been most pronounced. When our world cooled down, Etherian beings, hermaphrodites, are said to have descended from Venus 18,000,000 years ago to populate Lemuria; after many ages under terrestrial conditions their bodies gradually materialised to coarser vibrations. Then, as Plato laments, male was separated from female so that every man now seeks his soul-mate. This does not conform with the Darwinian Theory, itself not wholly proved, but probably explains the Biblical tradition of man being fashioned in the image of God.

Teachers called Daityas came down to teach the fourth root-race and became the first priest-kings of Atlantis; these highly spiritual beings had auras which were visible to the sensitives of those days, in remembrance ever since our own kings have worn artificial haloes, golden crowns. From Venus these "Lords of the Flame" brought to Earth the prime necessity of civilisation, wheat, a cereal never found wild; these Messengers, the Greek word for which is "Angelos," were possibly the Angels of our Bible.

Arcane traditions tell of Venusians descending in their lightships to save initiates of doomed Atlantis thirteen thousand years ago; Atlanteans who fled to Egypt depicted the golden discs as the all-seeing "Eye of Horus," a symbol of profound significance. The Hebrew Kaballah states that the One God emanated from Himself Seven Rays, the Fifth of Occult Intelligence, is the planet Venus. Greek legends of Titans fighting the Gods and of their leader, Prometheus, chained to a peak in the Caucasus, seem to point to war between Earth and Venus; Pythagoras taught that since Venus had no satellite she had adopted our Earth and was our spiritual teacher; this affinity was mentioned by St. Augustine, who repeated archaic traditions that Venus undergoes geologic changes sympathetically with Earth, a belief supported by astrologers.

Venus, or Lucifer, was the Light Bearer of Earth both in a physical and mystical sense; later the Fallen Angel was given the horns of crescent Venus and became the Devil, Satan.

Two Venusian races claimed

Until recent times, popular opinion thought Venus inhabited by human beings. Swedenborg reported two races occupying opposite sides of the planet. One was gentle, human and deeply religious, the other cruel and savage giants whose favourite sport was eating what they had stolen. In the nineteenth century Fontanelle said the Venusians lived like idyllic shepherds making love to the sound of sweet music as in our own South Sea Isles.

It was left to one, Thomas Dick, LL.D., in 1838 to announce that in the Celestial Census of that year the population of Venus was 2,030,862,000 compared with Mars, 624,880,000, and the Moon, 165,147,000. Cynics who grumble that these century-old figures are not particularly helpful now should realise that details of any later Census must be still top secret; however, this data would suggest that our rocketeers to Venus may have trouble finding accommodation.

Born again on Venus?

Surprising evidence is provided by the well-known occultist, Dr. Alexander Cannon, who writes that under hypnosis no fewer than 1,400 people regressed to the period before their birth and described their previous lives on Venus. Gnani Yogis have long taught that many advanced souls reincarnate from Venus to Earth becoming historical personages speeding our world's evolution, and that after death many of us are born again on Venus for further experience in more spiritual realms.

That "Prince of Saucerers," Charles Fort, recorded that in 1645 a body like a satellite appeared near Venus and was seen five times in the eighteenth century. During the next hundred

years he mentioned about twenty occasion when shining bodies were seen on or near Venus, causing astronomers to look for a phantom moon. Often last century, when Venus was close to Earth, strange objects haunted our skies. On the night of April 11, 1897, when Venus was in inferior conjunction, a strange cigar-shaped ship was seen by thousands flying over Chicago and the Middle West, and there were graphic reports in American newspapers. On January 24, 1913, according to the *Standard* and the London *Times*, unknown airships reconnoitred Southern England and swept many cities with searchlights; sightings during our post-war decade seem to occur somewhere almost every day. Since those fiery dragons hovered over the Court of Thutmosis III in 1500 B.C. Earth appears to have been under constant surveillance by our Guardians on Venus.

On June 22, 1956, Dr. John D. Kraus, of Ohio State University, claimed to have picked up radio signals from Venus, followed by class II signals as from a radio-transmitter. Since then Jodrell Bank has bounced radar off Venus and Greenbank radio-telescope is listening on 1,420 megacycles (known as the hydrogen-line frequency, for neutral hydrogen gives off radio-waves on this wave-length) for signals from space.

Hoerbiger states that Venus will be swallowed by our Sun; the Space Intelligences warn us that soon a Second Sun will crash into the solar system and smash Venus into a new orbit between Earth and Mars.

Man ponders over this welter of contradictions by astronomers, occultists and space-men, and finds himself about as wise as ever. The truth is that none of us knows. We are left to gaze at that enigmatic, shining Venus, smiling down on us in mystery; with hope for the dramatic future we stand and we wonder.

GRAVITY RESEARCH: *the 1960 awards*

The Gravity Research Foundation of New Boston, N.H., U.S.A., in association with the Sir Isaac Newton Library of the Babson Institute, has announced its 1960 awards for essays on Gravity. The advice to competitors reads as follows:

" In 1960 for our Eleventh Year the Trustees are offering Five Awards for short Essays for the purpose of stimulating thought and encouraging work on harnessing Gravity. The stipulations follow:

(1) These Awards will be made by us on June 1, 1960, for the best 1,500 word essays* on the possibilities of discovering:—(a) some partial insulator, reflector or absorber of gravity, or (b) some alloy, or other substance, the atoms of which can be agitated or rearranged by gravity to throw off heat, or (c) some other reasonable method of harnessing, controlling, or neutralising gravity.

(2) The First Award will be $1,000.00
The Second Award will be $300.00
The Third Award will be $200.00
The Fourth Award will be $150.00
The Fifth Award will be $100.00

(3) Essays must be received at this office before April 15, 1960. They will be accepted from anyone who is seriously interested in the application of gravity to practical uses for the benefit of humanity.

(4) All essays must be typewritten in English on paper 11 × 8½ inches, *with two carbon copies*.

(5) The decision of the Judges will be final and all essays and copies will become the property of the Foundation. The Judges will give preference to essays written especially for these Awards.

(6) Please write a title covering the area of thought expressed in your essay; and a summary paragraph of 100 words or less on a separate sheet.

(7) Please attach a separate sheet giving a short biographical sketch of yourself for use by the press in case you earn an Award.

Address:
GRAVITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION, NEW BOSTON, N.H.
GEORGE M. RIDEOUT,
PRESIDENT.

* It may be less than 1,500 words; but if more the judges have the right not to accept same."

It is interesting to note that flying saucers have not only influenced aircraft design, but they have also opened men's eyes to the immediate prospects of voyaging in outer space. The harnessing of gravity, too, is a project that has been stimulated by the saucers which, there is strong reason to believe, utilise this force as a means of propulsion. This is quite an impressive list of achievements for objects which, according to official circles, do not exist.

From an Astronomer's Notebook:

MOON ROCKETS

By W. SCHROEDER

THE year 1959 has seen some remarkable achievements in the field of space travel, and the credit is almost entirely due to the Russians. But these achievements are remarkable only as far as ultimate results are concerned, and not because of new techniques or inventions. As the results depend on the size of the rockets, it is really only incidental that Russian scientists and technicians were able to launch three giant space rockets during 1959, as only Russia's economy can provide the necessary funds for such an undertaking.

The first of these space rockets was launched on January 2, 1959. Within thirty-six hours of launching, the rocket passed within a few thousand miles of the Moon. Its velocity, however, was too great for the Moon to " capture " it and force it into the desired orbit, which would have made it a " Moon-Satellite." Instead it entered into an orbit of its own around the sun, and has thus become the first artificial planet. Its orbit has an eccentricity of 0.148, which means that the planet's aphelion occurs not very far from the orbit of Mars, while its perihelion lies in the vicinity of the Earth's orbit.

Beyond our sight

The artificial planet travels around the Sun in 1.23 years, and its next perihelion passage will occur about April 6, 1960. As the Earth will have passed this point nearly three months before, we shall not be able to see this youngest member of our Sun's family. The Russians estimate that the brightness of the new planet, when it is at a distance of 400,000 miles, will equal that of a star of magnitude 17, and so it appears to be unlikely that we shall ever see it again, unless it so happens that it passes well within a million miles of the Earth.

The second Russian Moon rocket was launched on September 12, 1959, and actually landed on the Moon after travelling for 36 hours. In order to achieve this landing on the Moon, far greater precision was necessary during the launching of the rocket, and an extensive programme of theoretical calculations had to be carried out to determine the most advantageous flight path, and the corresponding launching time.

Astonishing accuracy

In principle, a Moon rocket could be launched at any time, and by using various paths, but as the Moon is never very far from the plane of the Earth's equator, the launching of a moon rocket from latitudes like those of the Soviet Union presents some difficulties. Apart from this there is the fact that only from sites near the equator is it possible to start a rocket in a horizontal direction, which enables the rocket to carry the greatest possible payload. For this reason it was decided to launch Lunik II during the two or three days in every month when the Moon attains its southernmost declination. This ensures that the initial flight of the rocket can take place at a lesser angle to the Earth's surface than at any other time, so that losses in speed due to

"Observed from various observatories as a point of light.."

terrestrial gravitation are at a minimum.

The rocket was aimed at the centre of the Moon, but as it was not possible to correct the flight of the rocket after the end of the first few minutes of powered flight, an elaborate control system had to be incorporated, which ensured that the previously calculated elements of the rocket's flight were maintained. The accuracy which was called for was really astonishing: the final speed of the rocket, at burn-out point, was to be 6.9 miles per second. An error of one foot per second above or below this speed would have moved the point of impact by well over 50 miles. If the rocket was only one-sixtieth of a degree off course, it would land over 100 miles from the centre of the Moon's disc, and a mistake of 10 seconds in the launching time would shift the point of impact by 124 miles.

The Moon has a radius of 1,080 miles, and for the rocket to land there, it was necessary to ensure that it would be no more than one-tenth of a degree off course by the time it began its unpowered flight, and that its initial speed was correct within 10 to 15 feet per second. If we consider that Lunik II weighed nearly half a ton, it really is astonishing that it actually did land on the Moon.

As it was improbable that the impact itself would be visible, and the cessation of radio signals could be due to other causes, the Soviet scientists had to find means of checking the flight of the rocket with great accuracy. Because of its small size, Lunik II was lost, even to the largest telescopes, long before it hit the Moon, and the successful observation of the rocket depended on an artificial increase in its brilliancy, for at least a short period.

The artificial cloud

This was achieved by releasing a cloud of sodium vapour twelve hours after launching time. A special timing mechanism operated the evaporator, in which several pounds of sodium were mixed with thermite which was set on fire at the correct moment. The resulting cloud of sodium was observed from various observatories as a point of light which rapidly increased in brightness until it equalled a fourth magnitude star. Then the spot became indistinct, and grew fainter as it became a blurred ring. At that time the cloud had a diameter of about 400 miles.

Photographic observations of the cloud made it possible to determine with great accuracy the position of Lunik II and to compute the remainder of its flight path.

A position about 500 miles from the visible centre of the Moon was announced to be the probable point of impact, but there were no reliable observations to verify this statement. The time of the impact, however, was given correct within 2½ minutes.

Spectacular Lunik III

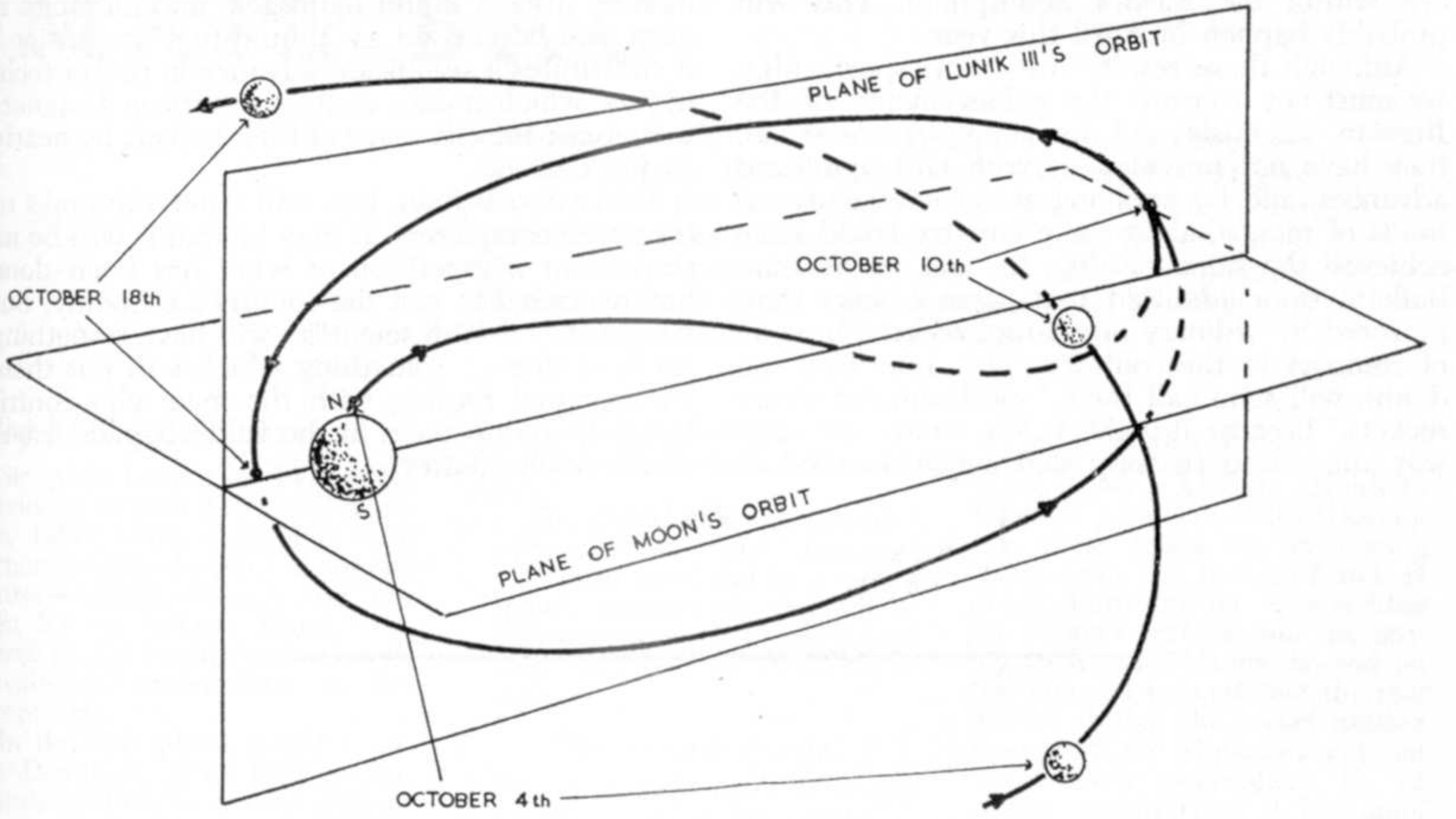
Even more spectacular was the third of Russia's space rockets, launched on October 4, 1959. As with Lunik II, the last stage of this rocked weighed about 1½ tons, including the "Interplanetary Station" which photographed the hidden side of the Moon. The weight of the space station itself is 613 lb.

The required flight path of the station called for even greater accuracy in the launching than was the case with Lunik II. It had to be launched from the northern hemisphere of the Earth, and as there was the possibility that it would enter the Earth's atmosphere and consequently burn out on its return, it had to approach the Earth also from the northern side, to make it possible to receive the signals from the station in Russia before its possible destruction. This was possible only by making use of the Moon's gravitational field while the station passed within about 5,000 miles from the Moon's centre.

Such a close approach also made it possible to force the station into an orbit which did not bring it back into the Earth's atmosphere, so that it would continue its orbit around the Earth for some considerable time. Thus, a greater amount of information could be obtained.

Those historic photographs

The flight path which was chosen, and actually realised, was as follows: The rocket started off in an orbit which was almost at right angles to the orbit of the Moon. At first, its path lay well north of the plane of the Moon's orbit, and it followed an orbit which was approximately elliptical. When about half-way to the Moon, its path crossed the plane of the Moon's orbit, so that now it was south of this plane, and gradually the station came under the influence of the Moon's gravitational attraction, and its orbit changed from an elliptical one into an S-curve. The attractive force of the Moon pulled the sta-



tion towards the north again, so that it passed the southern side of the Moon at a distance of less than 5,000 miles. About 40,000 miles beyond the Moon the station re-crossed the plane of the Moon's orbit, this time towards the north, and it was at this point where the photographs of the hidden side of the Moon were taken.

From here onwards, the station followed an elliptical orbit, north of the plane of the Moon's orbit, towards the Earth, which was approached from the side of the northern hemisphere. On October 18, the station reached the perigee of its orbit, the point which is nearest to the Earth. Even then it is still 29,500 miles from the centre of the Earth, while the greatest distance, at apogee, is 298,000 miles—about 60,000 miles beyond the orbit of the Moon.

Affected by Sun and Moon

The orbit of the Interplanetary Station, in the vicinity of the Earth, is at such great distances from the Earth's surface that it suffers no loss of speed due to the resistance of the atmosphere. If it were moving under no other influence but that of the Earth's attraction, it would remain a satellite for ever.

The radical alteration of the orbit during the first revolution of the station was entirely due to the close approach to the Moon, and during subsequent revolutions when the Moon is in other parts of its orbit, its influence is much smaller. The Sun, too, alters the orbit of the station, and the most marked effect is the decrease in the height of the perigee, so that, eventually, the station will enter the Earth's atmosphere, and burn out.

No significant advances

On the other hand, it could be possible for another close approach to the Moon to alter the orbit in such a way that an increase in the possible number of rotations results, but this seems unlikely with Lunik III. The calculations of its present orbit indicate that the station will travel along its orbit for about 11 or 12 revolutions round the Earth and then the accumulated

disturbances or the orbit will cause it to burn out within the Earth's atmosphere. This will probably happen in April this year.

Although these results are truly spectacular, we must not overrate the achievements of the Russian scientists and technologists. After all, they have not provided us with any significant advances, and by applying automation and vast funds of money, almost any country could have achieved the same results. In fact, a Russian bulletin even admitted that these Luniks were powered by ordinary liquid-fuel rockets, in spite of rumours to the contrary. The Americans, no doubt, will soon call them "old-fashioned steam rockets," because it is the U.S.A. where the news was announced recently that a new method of rocket propulsion had been developed. This method utilises liquid hydrogen, and although it must still be classed as "liquid-fuel propulsion," it constitutes a significant advance in rocket techniques, which at once enables American designers to increase the efficiency of their rockets by nearly 20 per cent.

Next year, Britain, too, will enter the ranks of the space conquerers. It may be that it will be no more than a repetition of what has been done before, scaled to suit the country's economy, but I hope that British scientists will have something up their sleeves, something which will put them on an equal footing with the men who contributed those advances in the field of space travel which really matter.

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Why I believe Adamski

Sir, After having read Dr. Leon Davidson in your January/February, 1960, issue, I am left with certain positive feelings about the matter—feelings which did not exist for me before. Thank you, therefore, for having printed such a valuable contribution to the controversy.

In the first place, might I ask Dr. Davidson, after having congratulated him on a very persuasive piece of writing, what results have the United States Government achieved as a result of their machinations? What could they have hoped to achieve with such a move in the cold war? If they hoped to fashion a psychological weapon it has proved to be a blunt one—and anybody who predicted otherwise must have been insane.

The most important conclusion to be drawn from the article is, perhaps, contrary to the author's intention. It is that certain very positive points, strongly in Adamski's favour, emerge as a result of altering the perspective from which his claims have hitherto been viewed. — Jesse H. Wilbraham, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, U.S.A.

° ° °

Sir,—Will Dr. Leon Davidson please tell me whether his article in your previous issue was submitted to the authorities and cleared for security? If it was, then surely his ingenious theory is automatically exploded. The American authorities would hardly allow such an elaborate secret to be publicised.—Richard Pendell-Smith, Notting Hill, London.

Dr. Davidson's article which appeared in our January/February issue and its pendant which appears on page 9 of this issue were both submitted and cleared for security. — Editor.

The lunatic fringe

Sir,—In your January/February issue you printed an article by Gavin Gibbons on the above subject. The warning given was long overdue, but imagine my shock of surprise when I suddenly came across this extraordinary statement: "The battle of Armageddon has already been fought —on September 19, 1918, at the place now known as Megiddo, when Allenby finally drove the Turks out of Palestine in the First World War."

That seems to me a pretty authoritative statement, to say the least. It would be interesting to hear from Mr. Gibbons as to how he arrives at such a conclusion which strikes one reader as being somewhat fringey in itself!—L. M. Bodington, Aurane, Belfast.

SIGHTING REPORTS

from England, Scotland, Wales, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, America

*. . . **Pages 16, 17, 18***

Russian fake?

Sir, — Mr. Alastair Mindell's letter in your November/December issue raises an interesting point—why the Russian Lunik II didn't burn up on approaching the Moon's surface, but, according to Russian claims, landed on the Moon. I suggest that the real answer is that the rocket neither landed on the Moon nor entered the Moon's atmosphere (I, of course, assume that it has one), but that it possibly passed somewhere near the Moon and that the stopping of the radio transmission at, or near, a previously well-advertised time was "arranged" by means of a clockwork time-switch. In other words, I suggest that the whole operation was a carefully arranged fake calculated to enhance Russian prestige for political and military purposes.

This brings us to the next Russian "achievement" — the "photograph" of the other side of the Moon, for this is sure to be brought forward as conclusive evidence of Russian "technical superiority." When newspaper reproductions of this photograph were analysed by radiesthesia there was indicated a background of cartridge paper with graphite distributed in varying intensity over the surface. From this it is quite obvious that the photograph is of a pencil drawing taken slightly out of focus to enhance the hazy effect of the drawing and to give the impression of transmission by radio over a long distance. — Douglas Taylour, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, Eire. *Continued on back cover.*

What IS in a name

Sir, There has been a great deal of controversy about the best name for the objects which are popularly called saucers. Some people prefer to call them Unidentified Flying Objects—UFOs for short—because the expression Flying Saucers has attracted so much ridicule. However, there is a distinct difference between the two phrases, and confusion is undoubtedly being caused by ignoring it. To believers Flying Saucers means extra-terrestrial aeroforms: to the world at large, UFOs merely mean objects which *so far* have not been identified, but which may later turn out to be something quite ordinary. In the United States Air Force's recent announcement, UFOs must be taken to mean the latter: to the authorities, at the moment at least, Flying Saucers in our meaning of the words just do not exist.—Martin Cunningham, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

This is a valuable comment: the two terms are not always interchangeable. We have always thought that saucerers, in an attempt to gain respectability, were unwise to drop the popular expression and in many ways we regret the intrusion of UFO as an alternative.—Editor.

MARS JARS

CAN life exist on the Moon or on Mars? *The British Medical Journal* draws attention to the experiments carried out in America and reported at the International Astronautical Congress, in which "Mars jars" having an imitation of the Martian environment were made. The jars contained a floor of red sand-stone lava which gave a similar spectrum to that of the Martian "deserts," surrounded by an atmosphere of nitrogen, the whole being cooled at night to far below freezing point. In this atmosphere it was found possible to grow two strains of earthly soil bacteria, one of them spore-bearing.

With regard to the alleged inhospitality of the moon, the medical journal mentions work on desert rodents which shows that animals such as the kangaroo rat imbibe no water at all, but manufacture it in their bodies. It is asked, could not organisms live inside the alleged dust layer on the lunar surface in spite of the virtual vacuum above?

Intelligence Digest, December, 1959.

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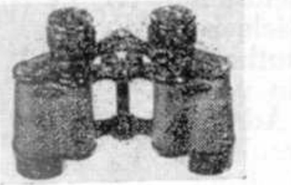

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AT LAST!

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT LINE MYSTERY

by AIMÉ MICHEL

With a foreword by General L. M. Chassin, General Air Defence Co-ordinator, Allied Air Forces, Central Europe (*NATO*)

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